



INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA

Thursday, March 23, 2023, 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:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCx9vXkywflJr0LUVkKnYWQ>

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 March 22, 2023.

DELEGATION

1. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – March 23, 2023 – ITEM #1
The Dufferin Rooftop Recreational Riders Association

A delegation from the Dufferin Rooftop Recreational Riders Association seeking permission to use the Dufferin Rail Trail.

REPORTS

2. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – March 23, 2023 – ITEM #2
Climate Action Report Card – 2022

A report from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated March 23, 2023, to summarize the 2022 Dufferin Climate Action Plan report card.

Recommendation:

THAT Report, Climate Action Report Card - 2022, dated March 23, 2023, from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, be received.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – March 23, 2023 – ITEM #3
Financing the BetterHomes Dufferin Program

A report from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated March 23, 2023, to outline the next steps to move the BetterHomes Dufferin program forward.

Recommendation:

THAT Report, Financing the BetterHomes Dufferin Program, dated March 23, 2023, from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, be received;

THAT staff be approved to advance an application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Community Energy Financing Program;

AND THAT \$3.75 million from reserves be committed as recoverable debt for the BetterHomes Dufferin Program to be eligible for the maximum FCM funding of \$15 million.

4. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – March 23, 2023 – ITEM #4
Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team (DCFAT) Restructure

A report from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated March 23, 2023, to present an expanded terms of reference and subsequent restructuring of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team.

Recommendation:

THAT the report of the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated March 23, 2023, Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team - Restructure, be received;

AND THAT the Terms of Reference for the Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team be approved;

AND THAT staff be directed to establish the Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team in accordance with the approved Terms of Reference.

5. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – March 23, 2023 – ITEM #5
Dufferin County Forest Annual Report – 2022

A report from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated March 23, 2023, to provide Council with the 2022 Dufferin County Forest Annual Report for 2022.

Recommendation:

THAT the report of the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated March 23, 2023, Dufferin County Forest Annual Report – 2022, be received.

6. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – March 23, 2023 – ITEM #6
Blue Box Transition Update – March 2023

A report from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated March 23, 2023, to provide an update on transitioning the Blue Box program to producer responsibility.

Recommendation:

THAT the report of the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated March 23, 2023, Blue Box Transition Update – March 2023, be received.

7. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – March 23, 2023 – ITEM #7
Capital Project Update – March 2023

A report from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated March 23, 2023, to summarize the road and bridge work for the upcoming construction season.

Recommendation:

THAT the report of the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated March 23, 2023, Capital Project Update – March 2023, be received.

CORRESPONDENCE

8. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – March 23, 2023 – ITEM #8
Township of Amaranth

Correspondence from the Township of Amaranth, dated October 31, 2022, containing a resolution to request installation of a four-way stop sign at the intersection of County Road 12 and 20th Sideroad and request the flashing red light be changed to flash red on all sides.

9. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – March 23, 2023 – ITEM #9
Township of Amaranth

Correspondence from the Township of Amaranth, dated January 20, 2023, containing a resolution to request a lower speed limit on County Road 11 between County Road 109 and 5 Sideroad and a no passing zone be implemented.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 27, 2023

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

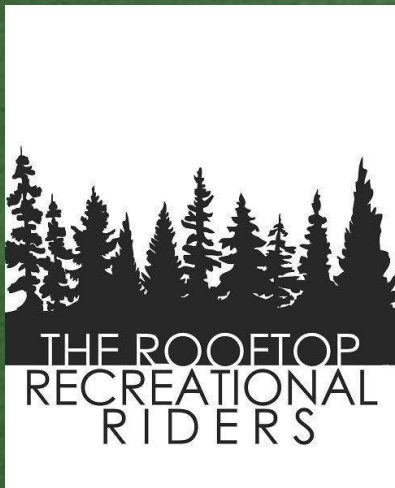
The Dufferin Rooftop Recreational Riders Association

A proud member of the Ontario Federation of Trial Riders (OFTR)

Presentation

To

Dufferin County Council



Ontario Federation of
Trail Riders



Introduction

The Dufferin Rooftop Recreational Riders were formed in 2016 as there was a group of like minded individuals seeking to gain access to a trail network in Dufferin County.

We have been actively advocating for access and are hoping to get access to the Dufferin Rail Trail for 2023.





Who We Are and What We Do

The DRRRA is made up of mostly families that want to be able to ride together.

Women have been actively involved in this sport with more and more women and families getting out and enjoying the Ontario trail network.





Reason for Request

With no legal place for Dufferin County residents to ride, they are leaving and heading north to Simcoe County.

Some people are illegally riding in areas they should not be in as they are not educated that Dufferin does not allow off-road motorcycles (only ATV's seem to be permitted)

Our organization operates under the umbrella OFTR (Ontario Federation of Trail Riders), a provincial organization that provides off-road motorcycle riders a unified voice in Ontario, and the Motorcyclist Confederation of Canada (MCC) that offers a national perspective. OFTR and MCC focus on education government, riders, landowners, and the non-riding public on the sport of off-road motorcycle riding.





Summary of Reasons Supporting Requests

In 2022 the OFTR through their clubs spent \$198,000 in trail funding. This was anything from bridge repair, dust suppression, and trail maintenance.

The Dufferin Rooftop Recreational Riders Associations is seeking for a legal place to ride, we will inturn educate other riders and ensure they are plated, insured, and have an OFTR permit.

We want to help increase tourism in our own backyard by having Dufferin residents have a legal place to ride their off-road motorcycles.



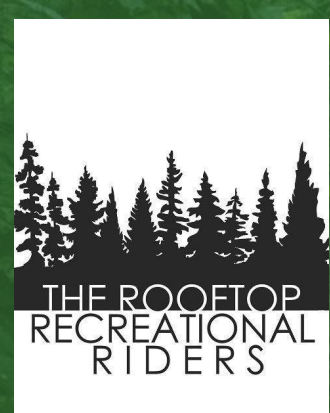


Conduct and Expectations

What OFTR/DRRRA members *need* to ride:

- Valid registration, license plate and liability insurance
- A noise limit of 94 dbA or less with spark arrestors
- Adherence to designated trails only – riding on unauthorized public or private land is strictly prohibited
- Ride in control and observe a 50 kph speed limit
- Respect, and expect, other trail users including horseback riders, hikers, hunters, mountain bikers and ATV riders





Thank You

**A huge thank you to the Infrastructure and Environmental
Committee**

**And to the Dufferin County Staff that have assisted us
(Scott & Caroline).**

We value the relationship we have built with you.



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

Meeting Date: March 23, 2023

Subject: Climate Action Report Card – 2022

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

Recommendation

THAT Report, Climate Action Report Card – 2022, dated March 23, 2023, from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, be received.

Executive Summary

The Dufferin Climate Action Plan (DCAP) was adopted by Council in March of 2021. To monitor the progress of the DCAP, an annual report card is released to the community. The 2022 report card (attached) highlights actions that have been completed, in progress, ongoing, delayed or yet to be started. Key priorities for 2023 are presented based on progress to date on the DCAP and the climate emergency that Council declared in September 2022.

Background & Discussion

The climate crisis is an ongoing and urgent issue that municipalities find themselves at the forefront of. In response, on March 11, 2021, Dufferin County Council adopted the Dufferin Climate Action Plan (DCAP), a strategy for the community to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and build resilience to the current and future impacts of climate change. The plan is guided by a series of 99 sub-actions organized into 6 focus areas: On the Move, In Our Buildings, Planning Our Community, For Our Land, In Our Bins, and Empowering our Community. The focus areas reflect both the greenhouse gas sectors that require reductions (see report [Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory, dated November 26, 2020](#)), as well as community priorities identified throughout the engagement process during development of the DCAP.

The social, cultural, environmental, and economic well-being of current and future generations of Dufferin County depends on actions taken now. For transparency and accountability, staff track progress throughout the year to provide a status update for

each of the actions outlined in the DCAP. The second Climate Action Report Card identifies the status of each action and highlights the key initiatives undertaken throughout 2022, including:

- Initiating the exploration of a tri-county Green Development Standards framework as a collaborative joint venture between Dufferin County, and the Counties of Grey and Wellington.
- Advancing the implementation of a Regional EV Fast-Charging Network in partnership with the counties of Bruce, Grey, Huron, and Perth
- Completed the first cohort of the innovative, farmer-centred Experimental Acres Program
- Initiating of a volunteer youth climate ambassador program, named Youth Climate Activation Circle

Council re-affirmed the County's commitment to climate action through the declaration of a climate emergency in September 2022 ([see Council meeting minutes from September 8, 2022](#)). The declaration further strengthened the County's climate response by committing to a variety of actions that have shaped the Climate and Energy division's priorities for 2023. These include:

- Presenting the Dufferin Climate Adaptation Strategy for Council adoption
- Secure financing to implement a local home energy retrofit program
- Continue development of a Green Development Standard framework
- Co-development of climate implementation plans with member municipalities
- Continue support of the Youth Climate Activation Circle
- Continue providing community engagement opportunities related to flood protection, active transportation, electric vehicles, and home energy efficiency

Financial, Staffing, Legal, or IT Considerations

None as a direct result of this update report.

In Support of Strategic Plan Priorities and Objectives

Economic Vitality – promote an environment for economic growth & development

Good Governance – ensure transparency, clear communication, prudent financial management

Sustainable Environment & Infrastructure – protect assets both in the natural and built environment

Service Efficiency & Value – determine the right services for the right price

Inclusive & Supportive Community – support efforts to address current & future needs for a livable community

Respectfully Submitted By:

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

Prepared By:
Sara MacRae
Manager of Climate & Energy

Attachment: 2022 DCAP Report Card

Reviewed by: Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer



DUFFERIN CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

REPORT CARD 2022





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On March 11, 2021 Dufferin County adopted the Dufferin Climate Action Plan, our first comprehensive strategy to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and build resilience to the impacts of climate change. This Report Card provides an update on the County's progress on the implementation of the Dufferin Climate Action Plan.

The climate crisis requires urgent action. The social, cultural, environmental, and economic well-being of current and future generations of Dufferin County depends on the actions we take now to confront climate change.

The Dufferin Climate Action Plan is a strategy to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 while also increasing community resilience to the impacts of climate change. Under 6 Focus Areas, the Dufferin Climate Action Plan outlines 34 primary actions and 99 sub actions that the County will take to build a net-zero and resilient community:

					
On the Move	In Our Buildings	For Our Land	Planning Our County	In Our Bins	Empowering Our Community

This Report Card, prepared for Dufferin County Council and residents, provides a summary of the actions taken in the 2022 calendar year towards our climate goals.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

On September 8, 2022, Dufferin County Council passed a motion to declare a climate emergency, reaffirming the County's commitment to climate action.

The declaration of a climate emergency signals a commitment to urgent climate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. With this declaration, Dufferin County is joining 644 Canadian municipalities and over 1,200 jurisdictions globally in acknowledging that climate change poses a serious risk to the environment, infrastructure, and people.

"Dufferin County is joining municipalities across the world in declaring a climate emergency and committing to further climate action.

As the County continues to integrate climate considerations in policies, strategies, and budgets, this climate emergency declaration will help us respond with the necessary urgency to ensure Dufferin County continues to thrive and embrace new opportunities in a changing climate."

~ Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer

5 YEARS, 5 BIG MOVES

In order to shift away from business as usual and respond quickly and effectively to the climate crisis, the Dufferin Climate Action Plan identified 5 priority actions for implementation between 2021 – 2025.

Progress on each of the 5 priority actions in 2022 is reported below:

PRIORITY ACTION 1

Develop a municipally-led financing program for home energy retrofits to encourage and make the uptake of deep energy retrofitting and efficiency measures in residences more accessible for residents.

The development of a residential energy retrofit program is a priority of the Dufferin Climate Action Plan (DCAP). In 2022 Dufferin County joined the BetterHomes Ontario Consortium. The purpose of the Consortium is to develop a regional southern-Ontario Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)-style home energy retrofit program.

Following the creation of the Consortium, and with funding from FCM, the Clean Air Partnership led feasibility studies with seven Ontario municipalities – Dufferin County, London, Huntsville, Barrie, Kawartha Lakes, Clarington, and Tay Valley Township. The BetterHomes Dufferin County Energy Retrofit Program: Design Considerations report was presented to committee on June 23, 2022. The report highlighted that in addition to helping Dufferin meet its GHG reduction targets, the program will address housing affordability.

Moving forward, in 2023 the County will proceed to the next phase of the program to work with local municipalities to determine desired participation and financing mechanisms and explore FCM's Community Efficiency Financing (CEF) Capital and Grants Stream application process.



PRIORITY ACTION 2

Accelerate the transition to low GHG transportation by developing an electric vehicle charging network across Dufferin and neighbouring municipalities.

Charging Ahead: Electrifying Fleets in Dufferin

In 2022, the Climate and Energy Division implemented the project Charging Ahead: Electrifying Fleets in Dufferin, which consisted of the installation of 20 Level-2 electric vehicle connectors to support the electrification of municipal fleets. As 37.5% of corporate emissions are attributed to fleet emissions, the promotion of zero-emission vehicles and electric vehicle infrastructure development was identified as a priority for corporate fleets. Dufferin County has 12 stations at three sites, the Town of Orangeville has six stations at two sites, and Melancthon Township has two stations at one site.

Regional Electric Vehicle Network

The development of a Regional Electric Vehicle network was also initiated in 2022 in partnership with Bruce, Dufferin, Huron and Perth, the City of Guelph and the Nuclear Innovation Institute. The Community Energy Association was contracted to develop a [Regional EV Charging Network Strategy](#), which has identified a need for 17 Level 3 Direct Current Fast Charger locations across the study area. Currently Dufferin and regional partners are seeking a consultant to support the installation of the network by the end of 2023.

PRIORITY ACTION 3

Empower the community to take climate action by institutionalizing climate action in municipal planning and supporting community awareness, education, and knowledge sharing initiatives.

Community empowerment is central to the implementation of the Dufferin Climate Action Plan. In 2022 education and engagement activities focused on home flood protection, active transportation, residential energy efficiency, and the creation of volunteer programming.

Home Flood Protection Campaign

In collaboration with Emergency Management, the Home Flood Protection campaign ran from May 1 to May 31 with the goal of educating and encouraging residents to undertake low-cost measures to reduce home flood risk. The campaign included the creation of a [resource webpage](#) and the promotion of education materials through social media, newspaper and radio ads, and an instructive video featuring Warden Wade Mills. The campaign concluded with a webinar featuring Cheryl Evans, Director of Flood and Wildfire Resilience at the Intact Centre on Adaptation.

Bike Month

In celebration of Bike Month the County invited local cyclists and families to explore Orangeville through a self-guided community ride on June 25, 2022. Community stations were hosted by Sustainable Orangeville, Downtown Orangeville, Cycling Elements, Orangeville OPP, Orangeville Hydro, the Town of Orangeville, and the County's Climate and Energy, Forest, and Waste Services Divisions. 17 participants registered and Climate Action in Dufferin had about 50 community conversations during the event.

Home Energy Efficiency Campaign

From October 5 to November 30 2022 the Climate and Energy Division ran a community-wide energy efficiency campaign to educate and encourage residents to take low-cost actions to reduce their climate impact, increase comfort, and unlock savings in their home. The campaign included the creation of a [resource webpage](#) and the promotion of education materials through social media, newspaper ads, and the distribution of free home energy savings kits to residents. The campaign concluded with a Home Energy Savings workshop featuring Adam Dixon from Knowenergy.

Youth Climate Activation Circle

The County of Dufferin was 1 of 10 municipalities across Canada accepted into the Agents of Change Program delivered by ICLEI Canada. The program provided \$15,000 in funding and offered support in the design of a municipally-led volunteer engagement program. In 2022 the Climate and Energy Division launched the [Youth Climate Activation Circle](#), a volunteer program to empower 8 youth (ages 16 -25) to advance local climate solutions. Between October 2022 and October 2023 Youth Climate Ambassadors, will participate in climate change training and collectively design and implement a community project that supports greenhouse gas emission reductions in the County's priority sectors, while sharing their learnings and success to inspire the wider community.

In addition to primary engagement activities, in 2022 the Climate and Energy Division led 7 workshops and events including an Earth Day action workshop, Storytime at Shelburne Library, Coffee, Tea, and Connection at Grand Valley Library, a teacher information session, and a sustainable transportation workshop in collaboration with Upper Grand District School Board. In the community, staff hosted educational booths at 5 community events including Orangeville Lions Home Show, Blues and Jazz Festival, Orangeville Rotary Ribfest, Let's Make Mono Shine, and Melancthon Day.



PRIORITY ACTION 4

Support climate-resiliency initiatives in agricultural and natural systems to enhance food security, support local farmers, and protect natural systems.

The Climate and Energy Division began a collaboration with Our Food Future and Wellington County to deliver the Experimental Acres Pilot, which provided \$6000 in funding to 7 Dufferin farmers to adopt regenerative agriculture practices on a small scale. 2022 projects included:

- No-till brussels sprouts
- Managed grazing of pigs
- Tarping to break hay
- Incorporation of hedge row into fence line
- Tallgrass prairie planting
- Cover cropping a market garden

The goal of the pilot is to backstop any risk, develop a community of support, and assist in capturing the business cases that can demonstrate what will be worth repeating.

In addition to the Experimental Acres Pilot, the County supported the Ontario Agroforest Network application to the Living Labs Initiative and allocated \$50,000 in 2023 Budget to develop a Master Plan for the former DEEP site.





PROGRESS SUMMARY

PRIORITY ACTION 5

Create green development standards to ensure new development is environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable.

Green Development Standards are measures created by municipalities to encourage environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable design. GDS are comprehensive principles to guide development at a level of planning and design that focuses on the community as a whole, while using resources effectively and efficiently.

The Counties of Dufferin, Grey, and Wellington are in the early stages of developing a tri-county Green Development Standard to find efficiencies in the process as well as creating a degree of alignment across the region to provide more consistency for developers. To support this project, funding support will be sought through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

The Report Card identifies the County's progress to date on the implementation of the actions in the Dufferin Climate Action Plan since its release in March of 2021.

Each action is categorized in one of the following status categories:

COMPLETE

The action has been implemented.

IN PROGRESS

Work on this action is actively underway.

ONGOING

This action will be implemented on an ongoing or reoccurring basis.

EARLY STAGES

Early work has been started, but requires additional work and resources to develop and implement.

DELAYED

Implementation of this action is delayed to a later date.

FUTURE ACTION

Implementation of this action is delayed to a later date.

DISCONTINUED

For specified reasons, this action has been discontinued.



ON THE MOVE

Embracing diverse and low-emission transportation options is essential, as transportation represents 49% of Dufferin’s total emissions.

This means making climate-friendly transportation options convenient, accessible, and maintainable for community members. In 2022, Dufferin County:



Installed 20 Level-2 electric vehicle charging stations throughout the County in collaboration with Town of Orangeville and the Township of Melancthon



Completed a Feasibility Study and began progressing towards the implementation of a regional electric vehicle charging station network with the Counties of Grey, Perth, Huron and Bruce.



Virtually visited classrooms at the Upper Grand District School Board to promote sustainable transportation options and electric vehicle awareness.



Hosted a Community Bike Ride on June 25 2022, with community partners including Sustainable Orangeville, Cycling Elements, Orangeville OPP, Orangeville Hydro, the Town of Orangeville, and the County’s Forest and Waste Services Divisions.



Initiated the development of a Green Fleet Strategy through the Asset Management Initiative to electrify County fleet vehicles.

ACTION T1

Expand public transit options and support fleet electrification (See T5)

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
In Progress	Review bus routes and optimize connectivity and service within and between local and regional municipalities	2021 Transit Feasibility Study Report was completed on November 30, 2021.
		2022 Dufferin County Council allocated \$25,000 to explore on-demand transit options through Dufferin County Community Support Services.
Future Action	Advocate for increased GO transit service	Will support as opportunities arise.

ACTION T2

Increase public awareness of and education on climate friendly travel modes

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Ongoing	Develop an accessible educational campaign to prioritize active transportation and public transit, particularly for trips under 5km	2021 Bike Month Scavenger Hunt and cycling safety campaign hosted from June 1 – 30, 2021.
		2022 Community Bike Ride hosted on June 25 2022. Workshop on Sustainable Transportation hosted with UGDSB in July 2022 Ongoing social media promotion of active transportation options/benefits
Delayed	Develop an accessible educational campaign for trips over 10km to prioritize carpooling options (particularly for commuters) and telecommuting when possible	2022 Workshop on Sustainable Transportation hosted with UGDSB in July 2022

ACTION T3

Promote climate friendly driving habits to reduce GHG emissions associated with passenger vehicles

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Discontinued	Develop anti-idling campaigns to improve compliance with local anti-idling by-law	Anti-idling by-laws are already in place in local municipalities such as Mono, Orangeville, and Shelburne. Initial research indicates the potential impact this action on GHG emissions reduce is low, making this action a low priority for implementation. County will support as opportunities arise.
Discontinued	Work with businesses and organizations to create anti-idling policies	Initial research indicates the potential impact on GHG emissions reduce is low, making this action a low priority for implementation. County will support as opportunities arise.
In progress	Promote and increase awareness of existing eco-driving courses and insurance programs	2022 Eco-driving courses and available insurance incentives promoted across Climate Action in Dufferin social media channels in March 2022

ACTION T4

Work with regional and municipal partners to expand low and zero-emission vehicle uptake and charging networks

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
In progress	Partner with municipalities to develop a regional Electric Vehicle Strategy to achieve network connectivity	2021 Feasibility Study in development and regional EV survey distributed from Feb 1 – 15, 2022.
		2022 Feasibility Study completed in May 2022. Initiating Implementation Phase in progress.RFP developed for third-party implementation partner.
Complete	Develop EV policy at the County level to ensure consistency throughout the development of a County charging network	2021 Electric Vehicle Charging Station Policy and User Fees passed at Council on September 9, 2021.
Ongoing	Leverage funding opportunities to install charging stations throughout County	2021 Installation of Charge Up in Dufferin Network of 22 Level-2 2 Level-3 charging stations complete.
		2022 20 Level 2 charging stations installed at 6 sites around the County in collaboration with Town of Orangeville and the Township of Melancthon
Delayed	Work with local businesses and organizations to encourage low-emission and electric vehicles to be included in fleets	2021 & 2022 Likely to revisit in 2023 with action plan.
Ongoing	Educate and raise awareness of the benefits of electric vehicles among residents and local businesses	2021 Education campaign implemented November 2021 including test-drive event, social media campaign, and webpage launch. EV education workshops hosted Upper Grand District School Board in November 2021.
		2022 Applied to ZEVAI funding for an Electrifying Back Roads Campaign, but was unsuccessful Promotion of Charge Up in Dufferin network and EV benefits across Climate Action in Dufferin platforms and at community events
		Sustainable Transportation workshop hosted with Upper Grand District School Board in July 2022.



ACTION T5

Encourage the electrification of public transit vehicles and fleet vehicles

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Early Stages	Work with local municipalities to develop strategy to transition to electric public transit fleets	2022 Green Fleet Strategy in development through the Asset Management Initiative Town of Orangeville is conducting a feasibility study to determine options for fleet electrification
Future Action	Investigate options to electrify school bus fleets	Will support as partnership and funding opportunities arise.

ACTION T6

Create accessible and walkable communities

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Future Action	Improve pedestrian crossing, comfortable walking route, and maps/ signage	2022 Town of Orangeville exploring options to enhance active transportation routes including conversion of rail line to shared pathway.
In Progress	Coordinate and expand accessible trails, walking, and cycling infrastructure throughout the County	2022 Rail Trail expansion project underway, Resurfacing expected to start in 2023. County Forest Division developed Outdoor Recreation Plan .

ACTION T7

Develop a TDM Plan and marketing strategy

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Delayed	Create a TDM Plan in partnership with local employers and neighbouring municipalities	After evaluation, it is too premature to do a TDM without having a public transportation plan. Timeline should be shifted to the next DCAP update.
Delayed	Develop an engagement process to include community members in the TDM planning process	After evaluation, it is too premature to do a TDM without having a public transportation plan. Timeline should be shifted to the next DCAP update.





IN OUR BUILDINGS

Residential, commercial, and industrial buildings account for 29% of Dufferin's total GHG emissions.

To reduce emissions Dufferin County has set a 2050 target of net-zero emissions buildings. In 2022, Dufferin County:



Joined the **Ontario BetterHomes Consortium** to leverage existing resources in the development of a municipally led financing program for deep energy retrofits.



Implemented a **home energy efficiency campaign in November 2022**, including a workshop for residents and the distribution of free home energy savings kits.

ACTION B1

Promote deep energy retrofit programs and provide information on resources and financing programs

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Complete	Complete a feasibility study undertaking a baseline assessment of Dufferin County's housing stock and energy upgrade potential, including the cost benefit of different types of retrofits to maximize dollars spent	2021 Completed a feasibility study for a deep energy retrofit financing program with Lightspark Software outlining existing housing stock and initial uptake analysis.
In Progress	Investigate options to develop municipally led financing program for residential deep energy and resiliency retrofits	2021 Exploration of financing options in progress. 2022 Joined the Ontario BetterHomes Consortium to leverage existing resources in the development of a municipally led financing program for deep energy retrofits. Engagement underway with local municipalities.
Future Action	Implement selected municipally led financing program for residential deep energy and resiliency retrofits with a strategic lens to address energy poverty	
Future Action	Support existing training programs for contractors to complete home energy work	
Ongoing	Educational campaign on home energy efficiency and fuel switching	2022 Education campaign implemented throughout November 2022, including including workshop, distribution of free home energy savings kits, radio and social media campaign, and webpage launch.
Future Action	Explore options for customer utility data comparison	



ACTION B2

Promote home resilience programs and provide information on resources and financing program

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Early Stages	Create resilience check-list for residences	2022 Resilience measures for flood protection shared through Home Flood Protection campaign.
Ongoing	Improve homes and businesses capacity to manage stormwater on-site through education campaigns, trainings, programs, and on-site consultations	2022 Home Flood Protection campaign held throughout May 2022 including workshop, development of education video, radio and social media campaign, and webpage launch.
Early Stages	Support training programs for contractors to complete resilience work	2022 Exploring options to support through BetterHomes Consortium.

ACTION B3

Support retrofit, energy, and resilience upgrades for rental homes and apartments

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Ongoing	Educate building occupants and landlords on available energy retrofit programs and encourage participation in future financing options led by the County	2022 Education campaign implemented throughout November 2022, including including workshop, distribution of free home energy savings kits. social media campaign, and webpage launch.
Delayed	Explore feasibility to require property standards by-law for maximum temperature in rented residences	2022 Case study review to be completed as student project in 2023

ACTION B4

Ensure all new buildings are net-zero emissions ready through the implementation of green development standards (See Action P2)

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Early Stages	Prioritize building designs that reduce energy demand and increase efficiency (passive cooling, air source heat pump, ground source heat pump, triple pane windows, light coloured roofs, etc.)	2022 Early stages of a Tri-County Green Development Standard in collaboration with Grey and Wellington Counties.
Early Stages	Prioritize climate resilient building designs (e.g. flood prevention strategies, passive cooling designs, expansion of hurricane clip program)	2022 Early stages of a Tri-County Green Development Standard in collaboration with Grey and Wellington Counties.

ACTION B5

Develop ecoindustrial park/business zone that is a low-GHG development zone

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Discontinued	Investigate the potential for district energy systems to maximize energy efficiency	2022 Current capacity constraints make this action infeasible at this time and ICI emissions locally are low, making this a lower-priority.
Discontinued	Work with local municipalities to review and enhance local Community Improvement Plans (CIP) to enable retrofits to commercial buildings	2022 Current capacity constraints make this action infeasible at this time and ICI emissions locally are low, making this a lower-priority.

ACTION B6

Increase capacity of ICI stakeholders to achieve energy efficiency and GHG reduction goals

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Ongoing	Encourage ICI stakeholders to take advantage of energy efficiency programs and incentives for new and remodeled buildings	2022 Climate and Energy Division shares programs, resources, and funding opportunities with ICI stakeholders as opportunities arise.
Ongoing	Support educational campaigns and training for owners and employees to maximize energy efficiency and options for retrofits	2022 Climate and Energy Division shares programs, resources, and funding opportunities with ICI stakeholders as opportunities arise.



FOR OUR LAND

While agriculture accounts for 16% of Dufferin's GHG emissions, both natural and agricultural lands serve as carbon sinks and provide important services to the community.

Dufferin's natural systems play a key role in adapting to climate change by providing essential stormwater management and purification services, mitigating extreme heat, and supporting biodiversity. In 2022, Dufferin County:



Partnered with the County of Wellington to launch the Experimental Acres Farm Pilot to provide funding and support to 7 Dufferin farmers to adopt regenerative agriculture practices on a small scale.



Allocated \$50,000 in 2023 Budget to develop a Master Plan for the former DEEP site.



Implemented Home Flood Protection campaign in May 2022 including workshop, development of education video, radio and social media campaign, and webpage launch.



ACTION L1

Promote and incentivize the adoption of climate-friendly practices in agriculture sector

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
In progress	Complete a study detailing the barriers preventing the adoption of climate-friendly and resilient practices in agriculture and the values that facilitate adoption	2021 Initially had PhD student to do this work; however, their area of research changed
		2022 Climate and Energy Division shares programs, resources, and funding opportunities with ICI stakeholders as opportunities arise.
In progress	Support evolving research opportunities investigating the carbon sequestration potential of agriculture sector	2021 Experimental Acres Project in progress with the County of Wellington.
		2022 Support of Ontario Agroforest Network application to the Living Labs Initiative. Research on soil carbon sequestration underway as component of Experimental Acres Pilot program.
Ongoing	Encourage regenerative and ecological agriculture practices where applicable such as no-till and cover crops to control run off, tile, or controlled drainage systems	2021 Experimental Acres Project in progress with the County of Wellington. Hosted Agriculture Roundtable on September 15th promoting the Rural Water Quality Program.
		2022 7 Dufferin farmers participated in 1st year of Experimental Acres Pilot. Applications for 2023 cohort participants opened in December 2022.
Ongoing	Encourage mapping of existing crop varieties against future climate projections	2021 University of Guelph research project completed to assess the impact of climate change on the sustainability to agricultural lands to grow a multiple crop varieties.

ACTION L2

Develop education partnership with agricultural community and partners to support long-term climate friendly practices and knowledge sharing

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Ongoing	Promote co-learning and networking opportunities for sustainable and resilient agriculture, energy efficiency, crop diversification, new technologies, and water conservation	2021 Experimental Acres Project in progress with the County of Wellington. Hosted Agriculture Roundtable on September 15th promoting the Rural Water Quality Program.
		2022 7 Dufferin farmers participated in 1st year of Experimental Acres Pilot. Applications for 2023 cohort participants opened in December 2022. Climate and Energy Division shares programs, resources, and funding opportunities as opportunities arise.
Ongoing	Support a variety of educational opportunities tailored to diverse producers and their unique needs	2021 Experimental Acres Project in progress with the County of Wellington. Hosted Agriculture Roundtable on September 15th promoting the Rural Water Quality Program.
		2022 7 Dufferin farmers participated in 1st year of Experimental Acres Pilot. Applications for 2023 cohort participants opened in December 2022. Climate and Energy Division shares programs, resources, and funding opportunities as opportunities arise.

ACTION L3

Encourage low-GHG energy alternatives on farms

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Ongoing	Explore on-site renewable energy production options	2022 Promotion of resources as opportunities arise via Climate Action in Dufferin communication channels.
Delayed	Explore options to incentivize manure management and biogas recovery as an alternative fuel source	2022 Current capacity constraints make this action lower-priority at this time.

ACTION L4

Protect and enhance local natural assets

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Complete	Complete a natural asset inventory for the County including a risk assessment	2021 Natural Asset Inventory was completed through the Municipal Natural Asset Initiative for Dufferin County and local municipalities.
Delayed	Develop municipal natural asset management plans based on inventory	2022 Scheduled to be completed by July 2024 by Finance Department.

ACTION L5

Increase tree coverage and protection in Dufferin County

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
In Progress	Create an urban forest/reforest strategy with climate resilient tree species	2022 Town of Orangeville currently developing an Urban Canopy Strategy.
Early Stages	Explore feasibility of developing a "Grown in Dufferin" tree supply program and or partner with conservation authorities to leverage existing nursery programs	2022 \$50,000 allocated in 2023 Budget to develop a Master Plan for the 193-acre of municipally-owned property in Grand Valley, which may include feasibility of tree supply program.
Early Stages	Amend the landscape regulations in both Zoning and Subdivision by-laws to increase tree protection and replacement requirement	2021 Planner vacancy delayed initiation of action.
		2022 Identified as a component of forthcoming Tri-County Green Development Standards.
Delayed	Adopt both a private and heritage tree protection by-law	2021 Planner vacancy delayed initiation of action.
		2022 Identified as a summer intern project for 2023 to undertake survey of existing by-laws across municipalities and provide recommendations for next steps.
	Ensure tree planting requirements are executed through new construction	2022 Initial research indicates Tri-County Green Development Standards should be avenue through which heritage tree protection is explored.





ACTION L6

Encourage green infrastructure and low-impact development initiatives to support resiliency goals

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Ongoing	Promote educational campaigns on options for and benefits of green infrastructure and low-impact development	2022 Home Flood Protection campaign held throughout May 2022 including workshop, development of education video, radio and social media campaign, and webpage launch.
Ongoing	Support backyard habitat creation initiatives to protect native biodiversity Encourage uptake of natural stormwater management solutions such as raingardens, soak-away pits, bioswales, or permeable groundcovers (See P2)	2021 Hosted Introduction to Rainscaping Workshop with Credit Valley Conservation to encourage uptake of natural stormwater management solutions with 66 participants. 2022 Invasive Species Awareness Week social media campaign February 28 – March 7 2022.
Ongoing	Encourage uptake of natural stormwater management solutions such as raingardens, soak-away pits, bioswales, or permeable groundcovers (See P2)	2021 Hosted Introduction to Rainscaping Workshop with Credit Valley Conservation to encourage uptake of natural stormwater management solutions with 66 participants. 2022 Home Flood Protection campaign held throughout May 2022 including workshop, development of education video, radio and social media campaign, and webpage launch.

ACTION L7

Support conservation and rehabilitation of ecological systems in rural areas

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Ongoing	Support restoration of degraded lands using erosion control, organic and nutrient amendments	2021 Experimental Acres Project in progress with the County of Wellington. Hosted Agriculture Roundtable on September 15th promoting the Rural Water Quality Program. 2022 7 Dufferin farmers participated in 1st year of Experimental Acres Pilot. Applications for 2023 cohort participants opened in December 2022. Climate and Energy Division shares programs, resources, and funding opportunities as opportunities arise.
Future Initiative	Support conservation of marginal farmland to perennial grasses or trees	
Future Initiative	Support restoration of wetlands (See L8, P5)	

ACTION L8

Support water protection initiatives

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Future Initiative	Support restoration of wetlands (See L7, P5)	
Future Initiative	Work with local municipalities to develop and/or update stormwater management plans	
Future Initiative	Work with local municipalities to develop and/or update stormwater management plans	



PLANNING OUR COUNTY

Dufferin County and local municipalities are planning to accommodate a population of 95,000 and 39,000 jobs to 2051.

Planning policies and processes will play a significant role in reducing local GHG emissions in both new and existing communities, by addressing urban sprawl to create efficient systems for infrastructure, energy, transportation, and land use. In 2022 Dufferin County:



Initiated the development of tri-county green development standards in collaboration with the Counties of Wellington and Grey.



Supported development of Sustainability Framework as part of Municipal Comprehensive Review.





ACTION P1

Plan complete communities

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
In Progress	Prioritize the design of urban areas to reduce personal vehicle use, vehicle kilometers travelled, and to encourage active transportation. This can be achieved through the development of compact, accessible, and walkable neighbourhoods that integrate residential office and retail developments	<p>2022 Early stages of a Tri-County Green Development Standard in collaboration with Grey and Wellington Counties.</p> <p>Municipal Comprehensive Review is currently in progress that addresses active transportation via Transportation Master Plan.</p>
In Progress	Prioritize infill and high-density housing in the downtown core, commercial zones, and along transit routes through policies	<p>2022 Early stages of a Tri-County Green Development Standard in collaboration with Grey and Wellington Counties.</p> <p>Municipal Comprehensive Review is currently in progress and will prioritize this action.</p>

ACTION P2

Create green development standards (GDS) and practices

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Early Stages	Create GDS that align with existing or upcoming policy goals and plans related to community energy, climate change, growth and intensification, resilience, and asset management	<p>2022 Early stages of a Tri-County Green Development Standard in collaboration with Grey and Wellington Counties.</p>
Early Stages	Engage the building and development community to integrate experiences and leading practices into a GDS	<p>2022 Early stages of a Tri-County Green Development Standard in collaboration with Grey and Wellington Counties.</p>
Early Stages	Create requirement for a 'climate impacts' section in all development applications and explore options to incentivize application of GDS by local developers	<p>2022 Early stages of a Tri-County Green Development Standard in collaboration with Grey and Wellington Counties.</p>
Delayed	Embed GDS in the Official Plan, especially as an implementation tool to achieve goals concerning sustainability, health, growth, and infrastructure management	<p>2022 Early stages of a Tri-County Green Development Standard in collaboration with Grey and Wellington Counties and will be integrated into a future Official Plan update.</p>
Early Stages	Work with member municipalities to integrate GDS into development standards with a focus on regional alignment	<p>2022 Early stages of a Tri-County Green Development Standard in collaboration with Grey and Wellington Counties.</p>

ACTION P3

Minimize flood risks in communities through enhancement of green infrastructure

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Completed	Conduct a study to identify priority areas to mitigate extreme heat across private and public properties	2022 Preliminary project completed by students at University of Guelph mapping tree canopy cover overlaid with marginalization index.
Future Initiative	Implement potential recommendations from extreme heat study such as installation of reflective white roofs, urban street tree planting, shading park structures, and the conversion of streets to light colours	

ACTION P4

Minimize flood risks in communities through built infrastructure

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Early Stages	Increase capacity to apply climate lens to infrastructure planning for stormwater management	2022 This is being integrated into Local Municipal Implementation Plans that are currently in development.
Early Stages	Update floodplain mapping and develop/update natural stormwater management plans to ensure no increase in vulnerability	2022 This is being integrated into Local Municipal Implementation Plans that are currently in development Town of Orangeville undertaking update of floodplain mapping with Credit Valley Conservation.

ACTION P5

Minimize flood risks in communities through enhancement of green infrastructure

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Early Stages	Enhance the amount of green space/permeable surface incorporated into all communities	2022 Early stages of a Tri-County Green Development Standard in collaboration with Grey and Wellington Counties.
Future Initiative	Support an increase in tree coverage through planning policy (See L5)	
Future Initiative	Strategically manage natural assets through the directives of the natural asset management plan (See L4)	
Ongoing	Increase uptake of low impact development technologies on private and public properties (See L6)	2022 Home Flood Protection campaign held throughout May 2022 including workshop, development of education video, radio and social media campaign, and webpage launch.
Future Initiative	Support wetland restoration and creation initiatives (See L8)	

ACTION P6

Explore opportunities to implement low GHG fuels and/or renewable energy generation and storage

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Delayed	Determine renewable energy potential in Dufferin, including potential sites for wind and solar installations	2022 Current capacity constraints have delayed initiation of this action.
Delayed	Identify options for local energy generation and storage options, such as microgrids that can also serve as back-up power supply during emergencies	2022 Current capacity constraints have delayed initiation of this action.
Delayed	Collaborate with the agricultural community and energy specialists to identify local options for on-farm renewable energy (See L3)	2022 Current capacity constraints have delayed initiation of this action.
Delayed	Identify opportunities for low GHG fuel use in the community such as hydrogen and renewable natural gas	2022 Current capacity constraints have delayed initiation of this action.

ACTION P7

Explore opportunities to develop a district energy and cogeneration system to decentralize energy production

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Future Initiative	Explore potential sites for a district energy system	
Delayed	Create a municipal energy map	2022 Current capacity constraints have delayed initiation of this action.
Future Initiative	Conduct an initial assessment to identify local fuel sources such as biomass or biogas products (See L3)	

ACTION P8

Enable the uptake of renewable and low GHG energy within the community through education

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Delayed	Provide learning and training opportunities for residents, developers, building owners, and businesses on renewable energy options such as ground mount solar, rooftop PV, geothermal, and renewable natural gas	2022 Current capacity constraints have delayed initiation of this action.
Future Initiative	Promote financing opportunities for neighbourhood level energy generation and ownership, such as solar installations	2022 Current capacity constraints have delayed initiation of this action.



IN OUR BINS

Although waste only accounts for 2% of Dufferin's total GHG emissions, the County can continue to support waste initiatives to increase the reduction of organic waste and local circular economy initiatives.

In 2021, Dufferin County:



Composted 3,200 tonnes of organics through Dufferin Waste's Green Bin program.



Engaged over 100 people through Dufferin Waste's Plan to Save, Reduce Food Waste campaign, in which participants built skills to reduce food waste in their households.



Over 700 social media engagements on Dufferin Waste's Clothes'ing the Loop on Textiles campaign.



ACTION W1

Increase diversion of organic waste

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Ongoing	Work with Waste Services to increase rates of, and participation in, composting through educational campaigns	2021 3,200 tonnes of organics through Dufferin Waste's Green Bin program.
		2022 930 tonnes of organics through Dufferin Waste's Green Bin program. 2265 tonnes of yard waste diverted through Dufferin Waste Green Bin program promoted through multi-residential engagement and neighbourhood campaign. BYC engagement
Ongoing	Work with Waste Services to support food waste reduction efforts	2021 Dufferin Waste engaged over 100 people through the Plan to Save, Reduce Food Waste campaign.
		2022 Dufferin Waste's Love Your Leftovers Draw reached 150 people. Climate Action in Dufferin amplified the Love Food, Hate Waste, campaign in March 2022.
Ongoing	Develop organic waste diversion educational opportunities for ICI stakeholders	2022 Service & engagement visits to 150 businesses.

ACTION W2

Support local circular economy initiatives

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
	Support individuals, businesses, and industry efforts to reduce waste through circular economy initiatives	2022 Over 50 business and organization promoted through Dufferin Waste's Take it Back directory. Promotion of Clothes'ing the Loop on Textiles campaign & map tool with over 700 social media engagements. Textiles feature blog on Climate Hub.
	Work with community stakeholders to increase knowledge of and participation in circular economy initiatives	2022 Over 50 business and organization promoted through Dufferin Waste's Take it Back directory. Promotion of Clothes'ing the Loop on Textiles campaign & map tool with over 700 social media engagements.



EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

The County is committed to building community capacity, addressing systems of inequality and inequality, and, ultimately, empowering all community members to participate in and benefit from climate action.

In 2022, Dufferin County:



Launched 2 new webpages for Home Flood Protection and Residential Energy Efficiency for residents to access tools, resources, and local stories to support them in taking action.



Developed an annual Climate Engagement Strategy to empower residents to participate in the implementation of the Dufferin Climate Action Plan.



Attended 5 community events, including Orangeville Lions Home Show, Blues and Jazz Festival, Orangeville Rotary Ribfest, Let's Make Mono Shine, and Melancthon Day.



Hosted 7 workshops and events including an Earth Day action workshop, Community Bike Ride, Home Flood Protection webinar, Energy Efficiency Workshop, Storytime at Shelburne Library, Coffee, Tea, and Connection at Grand Valley Library, and a Climate Solutions Fair.

ACTION C1

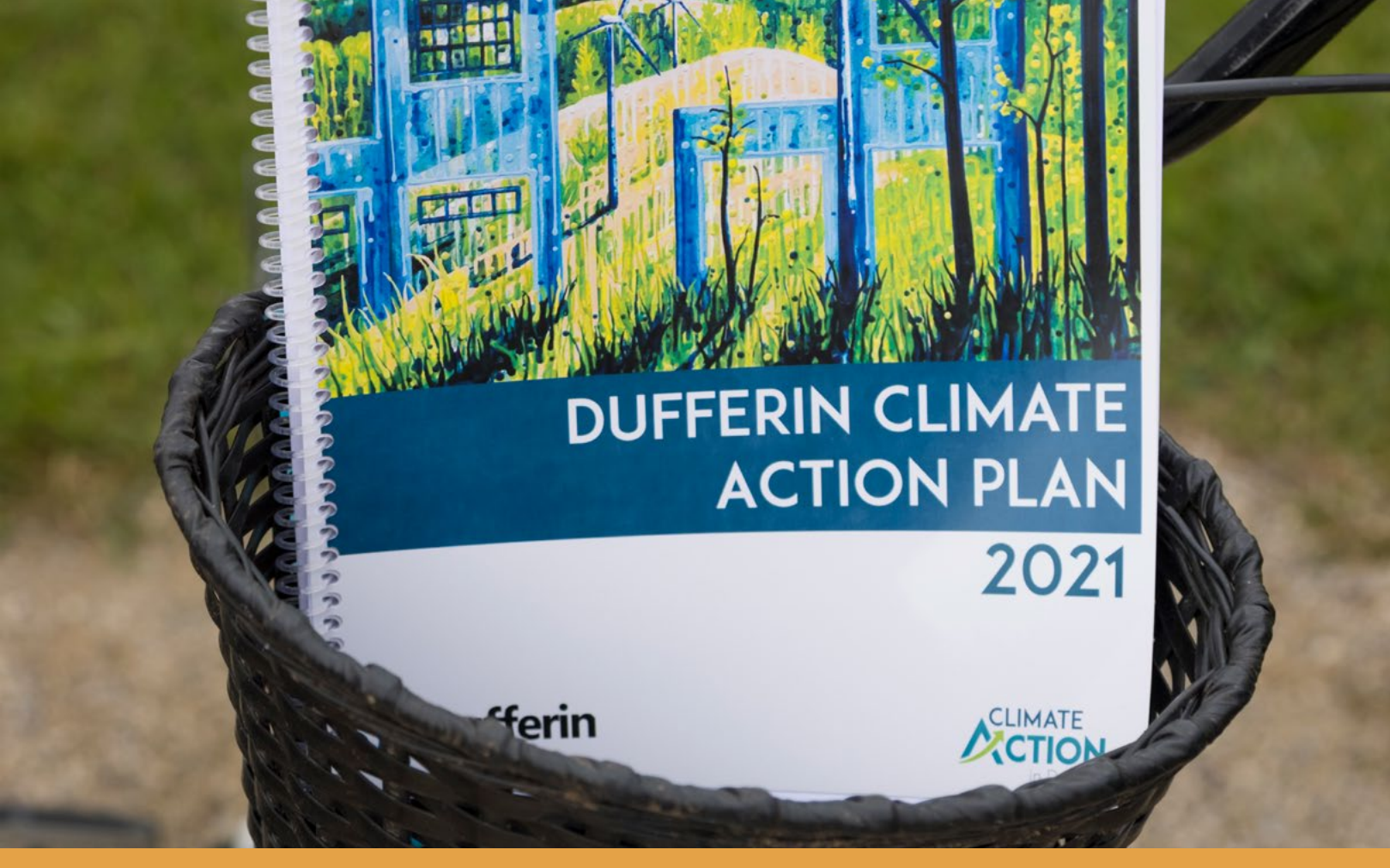
Provide capacity building opportunities for residents, businesses, and institutions

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Ongoing	Provide resources and learning opportunities for residents with detailed information on tools, resources, and supports to reduce GHG emissions	<p>2021 Launched the Climate Hub and Climate Action in Dufferin e-newsletter</p> <p>Educational resources shared on an ongoing basis via social media channels</p> <p>Saved 3,500 pounds of carbon dioxide and took 753 climate actions through the Earth Month Ecochallenge, led with Headwaters Communities in Action and Sustainable Orangeville</p> <p>2022 Launched two new webpages to provide resources on home flood protection and residential energy efficiency</p> <p>Hosted 7 workshops and events including an Earth Day action workshop, Community Bike Ride, Home Flood Protection webinar, Energy Efficiency Workshop, Storytime at Shelburne Library, Coffee, Tea, and Connection at Grand Valley Library, PD session at Upper Grand District School Board, and a Climate Solutions Fair.</p> <p>Attended 5 community events including Orangeville Lions Home Show, Blues and Jazz Festival, Orangeville Rotary Ribfest, Let's Make Mono Shine, and Melancthon Day.</p> <p>Educational resources shared on an ongoing basis via social media channels and e-newsletter</p> <p>Led the Earth Month Ecochallenge, in partnership with Headwaters Communities in Action, County of Wellington, and Upper Grand District School Board.</p>

ACTION C2

Create a community culture around climate action

STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Complete	Create a "Climate Engagement and Cultural Plan" with diverse community groups, particularly with equity and sovereignty seeking groups	2021 Annual communications strategy developed; however, it did not include consultation. Intention to co-create engagement strategy with DC4 during 2025 plan update.
Delayed	Conduct market research to identify barriers and motivations for desired sustainable behaviours	2022 Student project to be completed as opportunities arise.
Ongoing	Promote educational campaigns to encourage sustainable behaviours, such as supporting local food and farming	2021 Lead and/or amplified 3 campaigns including Bike Month, Charge Up in Dufferin, and Climate Stories of Dufferin.
		Lead and/or amplified 5 campaigns including Invasive Species Awareness Week, Love Hate Food Waste, Home Flood Protection, Bike Month, and Residential Energy Efficiency.
Complete	Promote local stories and highlight success in the community	2021 Spotlighted local climate champions through the Climate Stories of Dufferin Project. Ongoing amplification of submitted stories.
Complete	Establish a multi-level Climate Ambassadors Program to facilitate the inclusion of all community members in climate action initiatives	2021 Proposal submitted to ICLEI Canada's Agents of Change Project.
		2022 Youth Climate Activation Circle established through ICLEI Canada's Agents of Change Project.



STATUS	SUB ACTION	PROGRESS NOTES
Complete	Create a "Community Climate Fund" to support existing programs in the community for organizations undertaking environmental or social justice work	2021 Climate Action stream incorporated into Community Grants Program.
Delayed	Develop a climate change toolkit for businesses to assist with climate change impact analysis and continuity planning for extreme weather	2022 Current capacity constraints have delayed initiation of this action.
Delayed	Develop a green procurement guide for ICI stakeholders	2022 Current capacity constraints have delayed initiation of this action.



LOOKING AHEAD

Looking ahead to 2023, the Climate and Energy Division will advance the following priority actions:

DUFFERIN CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

In 2022 the Climate and Energy Division completed a draft of the Dufferin Climate Adaptation Strategy. The goal of the Strategy is to compliment the Dufferin Climate Action Plan by proactively identifying opportunities to advance climate resilience in our community's social, economic, built and natural systems. The development of this Plan was facilitated by the County's participation in the ICLEI Canada-led Advancing Adaptation project and contributed to by the Climate Adaptation Working Group, comprised of 25 community representatives.

In 2023 the Dufferin Climate Adaptation Strategy will be brought to Council for adoption and work will begin to implement the actions outlined in the Strategy.

MUNICIPAL CLIMATE ACTION IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

In 2022 the Climate and Energy Division collaborated with the Township of Mono to develop the Mono Climate Action Plan, adopted by Council on September 13, 2022. The Mono Climate Action Plan aligns with the Dufferin Climate Action Plan and is intended to maximize the efficiency, reach, and cost-effectiveness of climate action initiatives. Throughout 2023, the Climate and Energy Division will work with other local municipalities to develop their own climate action implementation plans.

YOUTH CLIMATE ACTIVATION CIRCLE

Dufferin's Youth Climate Activation Circle was launched in October 2022 to empower youth ages 16 – 25 to advance local climate solutions. Throughout 2023 the Climate and Energy Division will support 8 Youth Climate Ambassadors in designing and implementing a local climate action project, complete a program evaluation, and recruit for the 2024 cohort.

MASTER PLAN FOR 193-ACRE PROPERTY

The County of Dufferin currently owns a 193-acre parcel of land and is exploring options to utilize the land to support agriculture innovations in alignment with the Dufferin Climate Action Plan. In the 2023 budget, \$50,000 has been allocated for the development of a master plan for the parcel of land. The plan will investigate the potential of transforming the 193-acre parcel into a demonstration site for regenerative agriculture practices, and to explore revenue-generating activities to sustain the project into the future.

OTHER 2023 PRIORITIES

- Implement Regional EV Charging Network Strategy with partner municipalities
- Continue delivery of Experimental Acres Pilot to support farmers adopt regenerative agriculture practices
- Develop and deliver climate change training for County and local municipal staff
- Continue community engagement and capacity building

The Dufferin Climate Action Plan is ambitious, but with meaningful action from local municipalities, businesses, organizations, schools, and individuals we can create a prosperous future for the current and future generations of Dufferin County.

A net-zero community is dynamic community that embraces low-carbon transportation options, supports and enhances local agriculture, grows sustainable and vibrant urban centers, protects land, water, and air, stimulates local economies, creates healthy and equitable neighbourhoods, and is resilient in the face of climate change.

THE CLIMATE IS CHANGING. SO MUST WE.



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

Meeting Date: March 23, 2023

Subject: Financing the BetterHomes Dufferin Program

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

Recommendation

THAT Report, Financing the BetterHomes Dufferin Program, dated March 23, 2023, from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, be received;

THAT staff be approved to advance an application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Community Energy Financing Program;

AND THAT \$3.75 million from reserves be committed as recoverable debt for the BetterHomes Dufferin Program to be eligible for the maximum FCM funding of \$15 million.

Executive Summary

The development of a residential energy retrofit program is a priority of the Dufferin Climate Action Plan (DCAP). In June 2022, a report presented to committee outlined the economic market analysis and design of a local home energy retrofit program. Council then directed staff to bring back recommendations on moving the program forward. FCM has developed several resources, including a [short video](#) explaining the model and opportunities for municipalities to be leaders in supporting energy affordability in the residential sector. At this time, a commitment of funds in principle in the amount of \$3.75 million is required to move the program forward with a funding application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and to determine the desired participation from member municipalities.

Background & Discussion

Reducing the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that cause climate change is a key priority for Dufferin County. According to the [Dufferin Climate Action Plan](#) (DCAP), the heating and cooling of the buildings residents live, work, and play in contributes about one fifth of the County's GHG emissions. As such, one of the top five priorities of the DCAP is to establish a local home energy retrofit program.

To help meet federal greenhouse gas emission targets, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund has established a Community Efficiency Financing (CEF) program. "The Community Efficiency Financing program helps communities of all sizes implement innovative local financing programs that directly help homeowners cut their greenhouse gas emissions, make their homes more energy-efficient, comfortable and affordable, while creating local jobs and keeping the local economy moving." (Natural Resources Canada, July 7, 2022).

In late Fall 2019, the Clean Air Partnership, an environmental organization that supports capacity building for climate action amongst Ontario municipalities, formed what is now known as the BetterHomes Ontario Consortium. The purpose of the Consortium is to develop a regional southern-Ontario Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) style home energy retrofit program. The Consortium partners include the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute. Following the creation of the Consortium, and with funding from FCM, the Clean Air Partnership led feasibility studies with seven Ontario municipalities – Dufferin County, London, Huntsville, Barrie, Kawartha Lakes, Clarington, and Tay Valley Township. The studies included an energy efficiency market analysis and program design for a local home energy retrofit program.

The *BetterHomes Dufferin County Energy Retrofit Program: Design Considerations* report was presented to committee on [June 23, 2022 \(see report\)](#). The report highlights that in addition to helping Dufferin meet its GHG reduction targets, the program addresses energy affordability. Providing support for home energy retrofits also helps to address social issues in Dufferin County, such as alleviating energy poverty, where lower income residents are paying a particularly high energy burden. The analysis of the report determined that 69 percent of Dufferin homes are above the national median in terms of energy costs, with 4,139 households experience high or extreme energy cost burdens. There exists a paradox for many households struggling to pay disproportionately high energy bills relative to their disposable income. The lack of available capital is a significant

barrier to making home improvements that would provide long-term utility cost relief and help to address issues of affordability.

The June 23, 2022 report noted above resulted in Council directing staff to:

1. Proceed with bringing back recommendations to proceed with the next phase of the program to support the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Community Efficiency Financing (CEF) Capital and Grants Stream application process; and
2. To work with local municipalities to determine desired participation and financing mechanisms.

The report was received with the recommendation to proceed with the next phase of the program and to return to the newly-elected Council for approval to move forward with an FCM CEF application. Before determining the desired participation of local municipalities, County Council must consider and approve a financial commitment to the program, as well as approve moving forward with a funding application to FCM's CEF fund.

FCM's CEF Capital and Grants Stream covers up to 80 percent of the total program costs, in the form of a loan in combination with a grant:

- Loan Capital: Up to \$10 million is available to apply to loans provided to homeowners. The FCM CEF funds will pay up to 80% of total program costs. Municipalities are responsible for contributing the remaining 20% of total program costs. It is recommended that Dufferin County apply its 20% program fund contribution to loan payments. This ensures that the funds are recoverable debt and will not place a financial burden on the municipality. For the FCM CEF application to be considered, this 20 percent contribution must be committed to in principle now.
- Grant: Fifty percent of the total loan amount, to a maximum of \$5 million, is provided to cover all program setup costs including municipal administration costs, contractor outreach and training, etc. It is also intended to cover program incentives for homeowners, such as reduced costs on heat pumps for low-income households.

To maximize the funding available from the CEF program, it is recommended that Dufferin County commit \$3.75 million for recoverable loans and request \$10 million in loan capital, making the County eligible for a \$5 million grant to support energy retrofits on approximately 458 homes. This brings the total program value to \$18.75 million, with \$15

million from FCM. To be clear, the \$3.75 million principle outlay from the County is fully recoverable through the residential loan repayment system. This principle would be drawn upon and recovered over the program's four-year period. The commitment of these funds in principle is required now to move forward with the application to FCM. If the application is not successful, the funds requested will not be required and program options will be re-visited.

Once Council has financially committed in principle to the program, staff will begin to develop the application by first working with member municipalities to determine desired participation in the proposed Local Improvement Charges (LICs) loan structure. Member municipalities that are interested in participating will be asked to pass a resolution committing to adopting an LIC bylaw as the financing mechanism for loan repayment. LIC charges have been used for decades in Ontario to finance block level improvements such as provision of roads, water and wastewater services. [LIC legislation](#) was amended in 2012 to allow for new eligible measures including energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation.

In the above structure, repayment of the loan is arranged as an addition to individual property tax payments. The benefit of this approach is two-fold: a) it assists homeowners who would otherwise not be able to afford the high upfront costs of retrofits; and b) enables transfer of the lien to a new owner in cases where the loan applicant wants to sell their house before the LIC repayments have been made in full. The latter is particularly useful where the retrofits have a long-term payback period.

As the project progresses, staff will provide updates to Committee and Council.

Financial, Staffing, Legal, or IT Considerations

A commitment of \$3.75 million dollars over 4 years of the project timeline is required to enable staff to apply for the maximum total funding of \$15 million through FCM. The amount distributed will be required up front and drawn upon based on program uptake.

The County's commitment of \$3.75 million will be a recoverable municipal loan contribution to the program. It can initially be covered through reserves and will be replenished over time. The grant portion will cover 100% of all the program start-up costs, including the potential hiring of additional staff and/or third part resources to support the program. The total direct value of the project is \$18.75 million, which excludes collateral benefits to the community such as job creation and other related economic activity.

The commitment of these funds in principle is required to move forward with the application to FCM. If the application is not successful, the funds requested will not be required and program options will be re-visited.

In Support of Strategic Plan Priorities and Objectives

Economic Vitality – promote an environment for economic growth & development

Good Governance – ensure transparency, clear communication, prudent financial management

Sustainable Environment & Infrastructure – protect assets both in the natural and built environment

Service Efficiency & Value – determine the right services for the right price

Inclusive & Supportive Community – support efforts to address current & future needs for a livable community

Respectfully Submitted By:

Scott Burns, P.Eng., C.E.T.

Director of Public Works/County Engineer

Prepared By:

Sara MacRae

Manager of Climate & Energy

Reviewed by: Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer



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

Meeting Date: March 23, 2023

Subject: Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team – Restructure

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

Recommendation

THAT the report of the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated March 23, 2023, Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team - Restructure, be received;

AND THAT the Terms of Reference for the Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team be approved;

AND THAT staff be directed to establish the Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team in accordance with the approved Terms of Reference.

Executive Summary

In 2017, Dufferin County initiated the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team (DCFAT). The team was created to facilitate direct and ongoing public input to assist in forest management activities. The team has met several times over the years, and it has become clear that significant interest lies specifically with recreational use of forest lands. In line with this and in recognition of the 2022 Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan, which speaks to both the forest lands and the County owned Rail Trail, an expanded terms of reference and subsequent restructuring of the team is needed to be more inclusive and effective.

Background & Discussion

The Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team was established in 2017 as a public advisory committee on the management of the Dufferin County Forest and operated through an

established terms of reference (attached). The Team currently consists of five members of the public and one member of the Infrastructure & Environmental Services Committee.

The vision for the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team was to advise on all aspects of the management of the Dufferin County Forest. However, and not surprisingly, the vast majority of the conversations focus on recreational use(s), even when discussing items such as the County Forest Operating Plan. While the current public members of the team are not intended to represent any particular user group(s), each brings with them a defined perspective with respect to recreational use. In line with this, staff have concluded that increasing explicit representation from user groups would result in a more equitable, useful, and meaningful conversation around recreational use.

In addition to the discussion pertaining specifically to the County Forest lands, the 2022 approved Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan proposes several initiatives focused on infrastructure and maintenance activities aimed to enhance and increase user activity along the Dufferin Rail Trail. In response and in support of this projected increase in usage, users of this facility should also be included within a comprehensive advisory structure to help guide management and future decisions around this asset as well.

Staff propose a restructuring of the existing Dufferin Forest Advisory Team to include other recreational assets such as the Dufferin Rail Trail with an expanded terms of reference that formally includes recreational uses. The new group would become the Dufferin Outdoor Recreational Advisory Team. The proposed terms of reference (attached) detail the intent of the proposed team with key highlights noted below: The group would include users of both the Dufferin Rail Trail and the Dufferin County Forest; and explicit representation would be solicited from the groups/clubs known to be using the Dufferin Rail Trail and the Dufferin County Forest.

Opportunities for public participation in forest management planning will continue through established processes, including surveys, comment periods, and open houses.

Financial, Staffing, Legal, or IT Considerations

None.

In Support of Strategic Plan Priorities and Objectives

Good Governance – ensure transparency, clear communication, prudent financial management

Sustainable Environment & Infrastructure – protect assets both in the natural and built environment

Inclusive & Supportive Community – support efforts to address current & future needs for a livable community

Respectfully Submitted By:

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

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

Attachments:

- Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team - Terms of Reference (2017)
- Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory - Team Terms of Reference (2023)

Reviewed by: Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer

Terms of Reference – Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team

Purpose:

The purpose of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team (DCFAT) is to:

- provide community input and advice to County staff regarding the Dufferin County Forest Management Plan and Dufferin County Forest Recreational Use Policy and;
- assist County staff in communicating plan and policy revisions.

Dufferin County Forest 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.

Assumptions:

- recreational pursuits in the forest are a privilege, not a right;
- the Dufferin County Forest is not parkland, preserve or for single-use, however, some areas may not be suitable for all activities and;
- the Dufferin County Forest is owned and managed by the Corporation of the County of Dufferin, and is not Crown land.

Criteria for Analysis of Recreational Activities/Events:

- activity must have minimal environmental impact;
- activity must not have significant impact upon other forest users;
- activity must be compatible with forest management activities;
- activity must not pose significant liability concerns to the County and;
- activity should not require significant County staff intervention for administration or policing.

Membership:

Representation will be solicited from the general public to coincide with the new term of County Council, or as required to replace or add members. Five members will be selected according to the following criteria:

- commitment to advancing the purpose of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team;
- interest and respect for a broad range of issues regarding the management of the Dufferin County Forest;
- respect for the procedures agreed to by the members;
- willingness to serve as a volunteer on the Advisory Team;
- aged 18 or over; and
- resident of Dufferin County.

In addition, one member of the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee will be appointed to the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team.

Structure:

Outgoing 2017 DCFAT Terms of Reference

The Advisory Team will meet at least once annually to discuss items relevant to its purpose. The County Forest Manager or his/her designate will attend all meetings and assist as required. The Advisory Team may choose to obtain feedback from recreational users and the broader public when deemed necessary.

Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team (DORAT or DORA Team) is to:

- provide a forum for discussion of issues related to recreational use of County assets
- provide community input and advice to County staff regarding recreational use of the Dufferin County Forest and the Dufferin Rail Trail and implementation of the Outdoor Recreation Plan
- assist County staff in communicating information about the Outdoor Recreation Plan and related by-law (2017-39) and any revisions

The Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team is an advisory body and may make recommendations to County staff and County Council (through staff), but in general will not be making decisions regarding uses of County assets.

Member Expectations

Committee members are expected to adhere to the following conduct and practices:

- That all committee members, in all forms of communication, when speaking about the work of the committee, or members of the committee do so in a respectful manner
- That committee members address differences of opinions or conflict with other committee members in a respectful manner
- That all committee members respect confidentiality and privacy
- That all committee members are required to attend a minimum of 75% of committee meetings

Assumptions:

- outdoor recreational pursuits on County land are a privilege, not a right;
- the Dufferin County Forest and the Dufferin Rail Trail are not parkland, preserve, or for single-use, however, all areas may not be suitable for all activities and;
- the Dufferin County Forest and the Dufferin Rail Trail are owned and managed by the Corporation of the County of Dufferin, and are not Crown land.

Criteria for Analysis of Recreational Activities/Events:

- activity must have minimal environmental impact;
- activity must not have significant impact on other users;
- activity must be compatible with County management activities;
- activity must not pose significant liability concerns to the County and;
- activity should not require significant County staff intervention for administration or policing.

Composition

Role	Member
Committee Chair	To be filled by a member of the Committee
Group/Club Representation	One representative from each group/club known to use the Dufferin County Forest and/or Rail Trail
Community Members	2 members appointed from the community
Support Staff	County Forest Manager or designate and other staff as required

Groups will be asked to keep diversity, equity and inclusion principles in mind when choosing representatives. Group representatives will be added at the discretion of the County with input from Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team members. The County may request an alternate representative if an individual is not adhering to the Terms of Reference of the Team. Representatives should have:

- commitment to advancing the purpose of the Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team;
- respect for their fellow recreational users;
- respect for the procedures agreed to by the members; and
- willingness to serve as volunteers on the Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team.

Members will act as a liaison between their organization or stakeholder group and the County.

The Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team may choose to obtain feedback from recreational users and the broader public and may establish sub-groups if desired.

Remuneration

Remuneration will be provided in accordance with Policy 1-2-2 – Committee Structure and Mandates.

Term of Office

The Committee members shall be appointed for the term of Council (4 years).

Meetings

The Committee will meet at least once, and up to four times, annually.



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

Meeting Date: March 23, 2023

Subject: Dufferin County Forest Annual Report – 2022

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

Recommendation

THAT the report of the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated March 23, 2023, Dufferin County Forest Annual Report – 2022, 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 (2022), and a high-level workplan for the incoming year (2023).

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 2023. For 2023, new items of note pertain to implementation of the 2022 Council approved Recreation Plan.

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.

In Support of Strategic Plan Priorities and Objectives

Good Governance – ensure transparency, clear communication, prudent financial management

Sustainable Environment & Infrastructure – protect assets both in the natural and built environment

Inclusive & Supportive Community – support efforts to address current & future needs for a livable community

Respectfully Submitted By:

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

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

Attachment: Annual Report, Dufferin County Forest

Reviewed by: Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer



Annual Report 2022 and Annual Work Schedule 2023



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 what is now 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.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic continued in 2022, impacts on the County Forest operations were reduced as in person recreational events resumed, along with a spring Friends of the Dufferin County Forest event.

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. 44.0 hectares of conifers were marked for selection harvesting.

Economic Sustainability

- i. sales of conifer plantations of over \$150,000.

Social Sustainability

- i. a new outdoor recreation plan for the County Forest and the Dufferin Rail Trail was developed;
- ii. there were sixteen larger-scale in person recreational events; and
- iii. the magnetic sign and the information kiosk at the Main Tract were updated throughout the year.

In 2023, implementation of a comprehensive invasive species management plan will begin. 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 2023.

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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 (MNR).

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 (MNR) 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 MNR, 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.

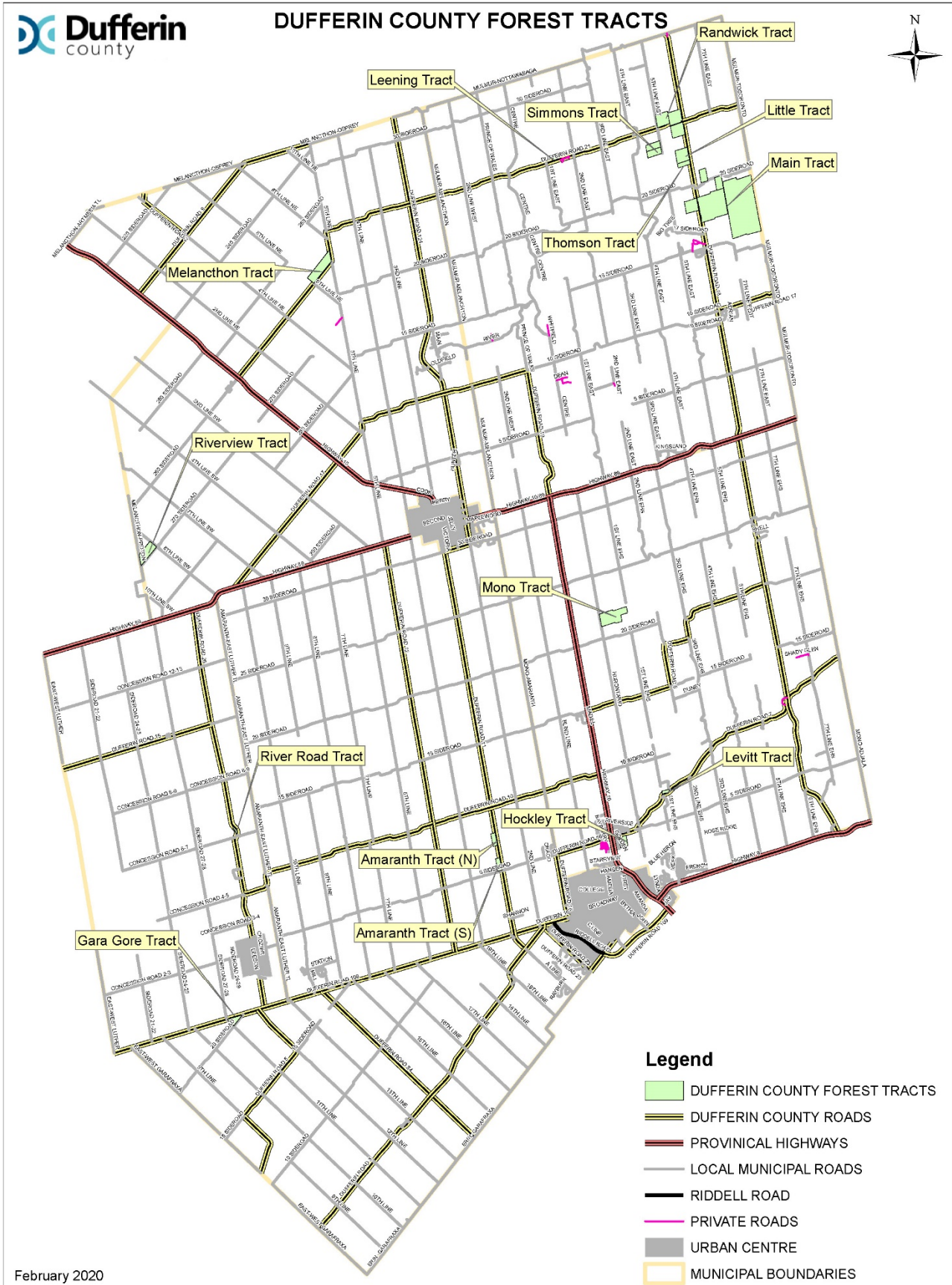
With the impending expiration of the management plan passed in 1995, in 2013 the County began work on a new long-term management plan for the County Forest. By this time, the recreational use of the forest properties had grown to such an extent that it was decided that a separate recreational use policy 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.

This annual report is divided into sections that correspond with those in the 2021-2026 operating plan.

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 Management ¹
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
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

Tract (Compartments)	Land Use Class	Area (ha)	Conservation Value	Standard Forest Management ¹
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 2022.

Table 2: Tendered Timber Sales for 2022

Tender Number	Tract and Compartments	Volume (m ³)	Number of Trees	Species	Area (ha)	Value
CF 22-01-A	Randwick (1a north)	343	246	red pine	6.0	\$22,755.00
CF 22-01-B	Randwick (1a south)	886	607	red pine, white pine	14.0	\$63,755.00
CF 22-01-C	Randwick (5a & 6a)	944	1788	white pine	12.0	\$15,750.00
CF 22-01-D	Main (15c)	53	137	hardwoods	15.0	No bids
CF 22-01-E	Main (16c)	68.9	207	hardwoods	14.0	No bids
CF 22-01-F	Main (24b)	837	495	red pine	12.0	\$63,555.00
TOTALS		3040.8	7484		105.8	\$165,815.00

The tenders were all awarded to Penguin Pole of Wallenstein, Ontario.

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 (MNR) Forest Health Technicians, County Forest staff, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Emerald ash borer, Asian long-horned beetle, Sirex woodwasp, spongy moth (formerly European gypsy moth/LDD moth), beech bark disease, butternut canker, and red pine decline are of primary concern. Spongy moth, beech bark disease, butternut canker, and red pine decline 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.

Spongy Moth (formerly European Gypsy Moth/LDD moth)

Spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*) is a non-native insect pest that has become established and naturalized in Ontario over the last 40 years or so. Outbreaks of the pest occur approximately every 7-10 years. Spongy moth is considered to be a deciduous tree stressor, not a tree killer, which means that usually tree mortality will result only if trees are subjected to multiple stresses over multiple years. Severe defoliation of coniferous trees may result in mortality after just one season.

In 2020, there was extensive defoliation of the red oak (the preferred food source of the spongy moth larvae) in the Main Tract of the Dufferin County Forest. To a lesser extent, other tree species, in particular white pine, were affected. This was the first year of heavy spongy moth defoliation in the Main Tract since 2009. Observed defoliation during 2021 was much lower than in 2020. Spongy moth egg mass surveys (a predictor of the following year's population) were conducted in the fall of 2020 and 2021.

In both 2020 and 2021, large numbers of larvae died from either the fungus *Entomophaga maimaigi* or the Nucleopolyhedrosis virus, which are both naturally present in spongy moth populations. The levels of the fungus are weather dependent (the fungus spreads more readily during a wet spring), while the virus spreads more easily and rapidly when populations are at high densities.

During the 2022 field season, spongy moth defoliation was not visible to the casual observer. As a result, it was clear that spongy moth populations had collapsed. No surveys for spongy moth egg masses were done in the fall of 2022.

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). The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (the lead agency in dealing with exotic invasives) is working hard to keep oak wilt out of Ontario, but it is currently only 500 m from the border (on Belle Island in the Detroit River). Infected red oak trees can die in as little as 30 days. Red oak is a



Spongy moth larvae dying before pupation in the summer of 2021.

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.

Prior to oak wilt being found in Dufferin County, the following strategies are being implemented:

- i. public education to increase the number of people able to identify oak wilt and therefore increasing the chances of finding it and identifying it before it is widespread;
- ii. public education regarding the dangers of moving firewood, therefore reducing the chances of oak wilt arriving in Dufferin County through that avenue;
- iii. in the Dufferin County Forest, no harvesting of stands containing more than 5 m²/ha of red oak between April 1 and July 31. During this time of year, the sap-feeding beetles, which spread oak wilt and are attracted to open wounds on oak trees, are most active; and
- iv. public education to discourage private landowners from pruning or harvesting red oak between April 1 and July 31.

Once oak wilt is found in Ontario, a second phase of restrictions will be introduced. These will likely include changes to the period during which pruning or harvesting of red oak is not permitted, as well as an expansion of pruning and harvesting restrictions to County operations outside of the County Forest (e.g. contracts for roadside tree pruning and removal) and increased public education.

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

During the 2022 growing season, ongoing monitoring and removal of the dog-strangling vine at the Mono, Main and Randwick Tracts was conducted.

Scots pine was removed in conjunction with field work and litter/garbage pick-up.

Data was collected on the garlic mustard plots at the Melancthon, Mono, and Randwick Tracts. These plots were established in 2016 to monitor the growth of garlic mustard.

One of the first duties of the newly-hired Forest Assistant is to develop a comprehensive invasive species management plan, focusing on terrestrial plant invasives. The plan will be a working document whose implementation will commence in 2023.

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 contributes 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 2022, refer to Table 2. There are many factors that affect the value of the timber sold from the Dufferin County Forest, some of which are difficult to predict from year to year. These factors include the price of wood locally and regionally; the location, size and species of trees offered for sale; and the supply of wood of various species and sizes in a given year. 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 2022.

Donations

A secure post was installed beside the Main Tract kiosk to collect cash donations toward the work of the Friends of the Dufferin County Forest (FDCF). Donations to the FDCF can also be made online through a QR code/website address. The amount of money collected to date is not significant, but it is expected to increase as the FDCF is able to resume functioning post-COVID.

2.5 Social Sustainability

New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan: Refresh | Regrow | Recreate

During 2022, the recreational use policy for the County Forest was updated. *New Routes: Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan* is broader in scope than the previous recreational use policy in two ways:

1. it includes permitted uses not just for the County Forest, but also for the Dufferin Rail Trail, the former rail corridor owned by the County of Dufferin; and
2. it includes a number of items related to both the County Forest and the Rail Trail for the County Forest were previously part of the forest management plan and not the recreational use policy. These include signs, communications, and infrastructure.

The uses for the County Forest remained largely unchanged and the document established use guidelines for the Rail Trail which were previously non-existent. Additional infrastructure in terms of portable toilets, signs, and parking lot plowing was outlined for both the County Forest and the Rail Trail.

Public consultation during the development of the document was split into two stages – an idea generation stage and a draft review stage. Unfortunately, the volume of public input was relatively small during both stages. The final version of the plan can be accessed [here](#).

Friends of the Dufferin County Forest (FDCF)

As COVID-19 restrictions were loosened, the Friends of the Dufferin County Forest held a work party day for trail maintenance and garbage pick-up on April 30, 2022. More events will be planned in 2023. 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 County Forest Advisory Team (DCFAT)

In 2022, there was one meeting of the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team, to discuss the outdoor recreation plan.

Recreational Events

As COVID-19 restrictions were loosened, larger-scale in person recreational events resumed in 2022. Table 3 gives details of the sixteen larger-scale recreational events that took place in the County Forest in 2022. Unless otherwise noted, the events took place at the Main Tract. In total, the events generated revenue of about \$2,500 for the County.

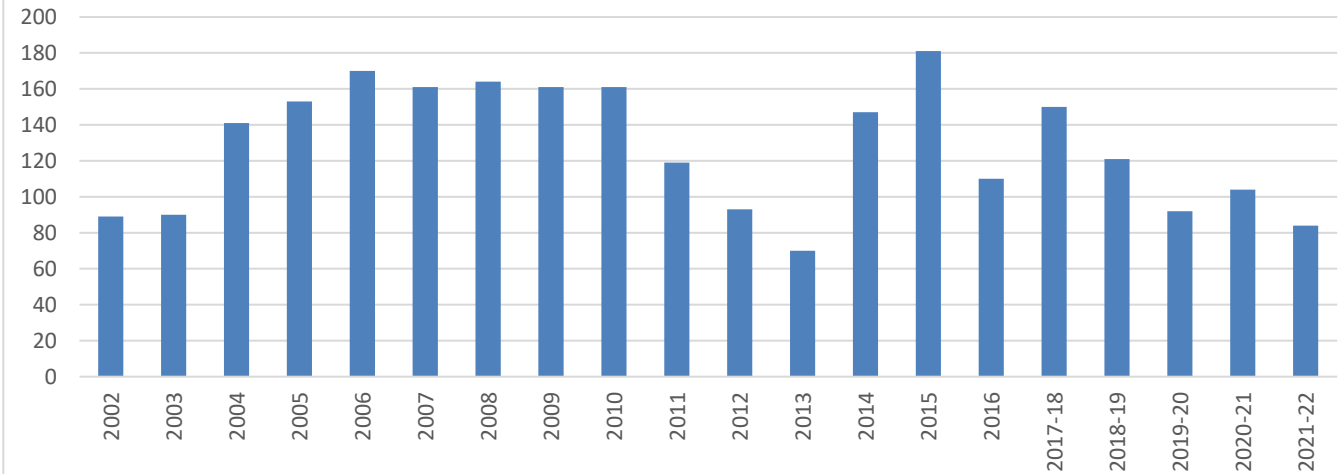
Table 3: Larger-Scale Recreational Events in the Dufferin County Forest 2022

Date of Event	Type of Event	Number of People
May 6-8	OTRA Horseback Riding Event	15
May 20-23	Chesley Saddle Club Horseback Riding Event	9
May 28	1849 Orangeville Army Cadets Outdoor Skills Event	24
June 17-20	OCTRA Horseback Riding Event	56
June 10-12	OTRA Horseback Riding Event	18
June 3-6	Chesley Saddle Club Horseback Riding Event	11
June 11	Substance Projects Mountain Biking Event	200
July 4-10	OTRA Horseback Riding Event	24
August 5-7	OTRA Horseback Riding Event	17
August 14	Substance Projects Mountain Biking Event	102
August 26-29	Chesley Saddle Club Horseback Riding Event	19
September 9-11	OTRA Horseback Riding Event	36
September 16-19	Chesley Saddle Club Horseback Riding Event	5
September 17	Chase the Coyote Trail Run Event – Mono Tract	120
September 30-October 2	OCTRA Horseback Riding Event	59
October 29-30	1849 Orangeville Army Cadets Outdoor Skills Event	73

Forest Use Permits (Hunting)

Figure 2 shows the number of Forest Use Permits (Hunting) that have been issued in the last twenty years. In 2018, the permits transitioned from an effective period of January 1-December 31 to an effective period of 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 \$2,500 for the County.

Figure 2: Forest Use Permits (Hunting) Issued for the Dufferin County Forest 2002 to 2021-2022



Mansfield Outdoor Centre

The Mansfield Outdoor Centre leased cross-country ski trails in the south portion of the Main Tract for the 2022-2023 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.

Signs and information related to COVID-19 were placed at all of the Forest entrances, at the Main Tract kiosk, and on the County website in 2022.

Infrastructure

During 2022, 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.

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

The signs at the Forest entrances stating guidelines for Forest use during the COVID-19 pandemic were replaced as necessary throughout 2022.

Temporary signs were posted at a number of the tracts 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

In order 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, 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.

In 2021, there was production and periodic updating of various information products, including a general County Forest brochure; a recreational use brochure; a hunting brochure; a brochure describing the Little Tract interpretive trail; a brochure describing the Main Tract interpretive trail; a trail map brochure for the Main Tract; and a brochure describing the driving tour.

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.

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 Dufferin County Forest pamphlets, maps of the Main Tract, and information on various insects and diseases that affect trees, spongy moth 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.

Presentations, Schools, Walks, and Tours

Guided forest walks were not held in 2022 due to continued uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the impossibility of practicing social distancing during such as event.

Interpretive Trails

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

Cultural Heritage Resources

In 2022, no further work was done at the site of the building foundation at the Simmons Tract.

3.0 MONITORING

In 2022, 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 loggers complied with the terms and conditions of the tenders. There were no significant violations of tender terms and conditions in 2022.

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 species was conducted as part of both forest inventories and other field work.

In 2020, the County embarked on a program to measure recreational use of the Forest, in particular 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.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the strict limits on in person interactions, no in person surveying was done in 2022.

At the end of 2021, some changes were made to the placement of the trail counters to improve the efficiency of data collection. Trail counters are now located:

- i. at the Main Tract, along the main south double track trail from the parking lot, to count equestrians and pedestrians;
- ii. at the Main Tract, along the single track trail from the parking lot, to count mountain bikers;
- iii. at the Main Tract, along the single track trail west of the event field, to count mountain bikers;
- iv. at the Main Tract, along the single track trail south of the event field, to count mountain bikers;
- v. at the Main Tract, along the double track trail from the event field, to count equestrians;
- vi. at the Mono Tract, at 675111 Hurontario St., to count all users; and
- vii. at the Mono Tract, at 715120 1st Line EHS, to count all users.

Some work was done on calibrating the trail counters by the Forestry Summer Student.

The trail counters will always be representative of trends in use rather than actual user numbers as both the Mono and Main Tracts have a number of entrances and it is not viable to have trail counters at all of them.

At the Main Tract, peak numbers for pedestrians, equestrians, and mountain bikers occurred on Saturday and Sunday. On a 24-hour basis, activity peaks are mid-day, from roughly 10 am to 3 pm. Numbers for all activities decreased into December, although there were still numerous users. At the Mono Tract there was significant activity on Monday and Wednesday in addition to the weekend.

Three periods of traffic counts were collected in 2022: May 30-June 6, August 2-8, and October 3-12

(Thanksgiving weekend). Although weekend and holiday Monday visits continued to be high, weekday visitation, especially on Friday, was significant. The main parking lot continued to be used more than the event field parking.

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 survey.

4.0 STAFFING

As part of the 2022 budget deliberations, County Council approved funding for a full-time, permanent Forest Assistant position in the County Forest Division. Michelle Kratky started in the position on November 1, 2022. The first large project for Michelle is the development and implementation of a comprehensive invasive species management plan for the Dufferin County Forest and other County-owned assets. Michelle will be assisting in all County Forest Division activities.

5.0 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.

6.0 DUFFERIN COUNTY FOREST ANNUAL WORK SCHEDULE

The main activities for 2023 are described in the following sections.

6.1 Environmental Sustainability

It is anticipated that there will be 29.4 hectares of conifers marked in 2023. The breakdown of the areas is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Areas Planned to be Marked in the Dufferin County Forest for 2023

Tract (Compartment)	Species	Area (ha)
Randwick (5b)	red pine	14.0
Main (15b, 16b)	red pine/white pine	7.0
Mono (39a-1)	red pine	8.4
Total Area		29.4

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 late summer of 2022.

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.

Implementation of a comprehensive invasive species management plan will begin, focusing on terrestrial plant invasives in the County Forest.

6.2 Economic Sustainability

For details of the budget, refer to the County of Dufferin's Budget 2023.

6.3 Social Sustainability

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

Pending budget approval, major new signs planned for 2023 include:

- i. signs at all County Forest entrances prominently displaying the County Forest website address and/or a QR code to link to the website; and
- ii. pictographic signs indicating permitted trail uses.

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 start to be disseminated through the County's various social media accounts, as well as through traditional media avenues.

6.4 Monitoring

In 2023, the monitoring program will focus on five broad areas:

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

A detailed inventory of known terrestrial plant invasive species locations will be conducted to inform control measures as part of the implementation of the invasive species management plan.

A detailed inventory of oak regeneration, particularly in the Oak Ridges South Slope Forest Area of Natural and Scientific Interest, will be conducted to inform a management strategy specifically for oak-dominated stands.

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



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

Meeting Date: March 23, 2023

Subject: Blue Box Transition Update – March 2023

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

Recommendation

THAT the report of the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated March 23, 2023, Blue Box Transition Update – March 2023, be received.

Executive Summary

Within Ontario, the residential Blue Box recycling program is transitioning to a full-producer responsibility system between July 1, 2023, and the end of 2025. This means that by 2026 residential Blue Box programs will no longer be municipally led but will be delivered by producers through various means. Dufferin County's transition date is July 1, 2023, and staff are working with the Producer Responsibility Organization known as Circular Materials Ontario to help facilitate the intended seamless transition of the service. This report provides a general update on the transition and related work.

Background & Discussion

Under the Blue Box Transition, producers of printed paper and packaging designated under the new Regulation will have full operational and financial responsibility for the residential recycling system in Ontario. This means that producers of these materials will be responsible for collections, processing, commodity marketing and promotion and/or education of these materials for households and other eligible sources such as schools and long-term care/retirement homes.

In June 2022, Council opted out of becoming a third-party recycling collection service provider to producers in favour of working with them to support a seamless service

transition to full-producer responsibility 2022-05-26 Infrastructure and Environmental Services Agenda (dufferincounty.ca). This means that the producers are responsible for securing contractors to carry out curbside recycling collection and processing for Dufferin. In support of this effort, producers are joining Producer Responsibility Organizations to help them, amongst other items, procure the services of contractors and meet other obligations and/or targets under the new Regulation.

The primary Producer Responsibility Organization in the Province is Circular Materials Ontario. This is the agency that staff are working with to ensure service continuity throughout the transition. Throughout the transition period, residents are not to experience any changes from the current collection program with several elements remaining constant. This includes container type, collection frequency and the current list of acceptable materials. Moving into the 2026 post-transition timeline, producers will gain full authority and may change container types and/or collection frequency should they so choose. In 2026, residents of Ontario will receive a provincially standardized list of acceptable recyclable materials.

Staff continue to work with Circular Materials Ontario in support of a seamless service transition. Through this effort, staff will gather further information around the future state including contractor selection and opportunities to support the transition. Some items of collaboration and/or support for the transition are described below.

Promotion and Education for Recycling

Circular Materials Ontario has approached the County regarding promotion and education during transition. To date, interest is focused on using space in two County communication channels - the County's annual Guide/Calendar and the Dufferin Waste app. Each of these items are appropriate and serve well towards a seamless transition and therefore staff are in discussions around compensation for space in these channels.

Public Inquiries and Customer Service for Recycling

Once Circular Materials Ontario has selected a contractor, they will be responsible for addressing customer service for recycling. In support of this, Dufferin Waste will include contractor information specific to residential recycling inquiries on promotional material. Based on British Columbia's similar transition to full-producer responsibility of recycling, the County will likely continue to receive resident calls/inquiries after transition. Staff will redirect these calls/inquiries to Circular Materials Ontario's contractor for response.

Distribution of recycling containers

Staff anticipate a conversation with the Circular Materials Ontario contractor around distribution of blue box containers to residents. This distribution is the responsibility of the contractor and they may or may not seek continued support through the County and local municipal offices. This may include distribution to new residents, replacement of broken bins, and continued inventory management/storage.

Industrial, Commercial & Institutional Sources of Recycling

An additional segment of the County's curbside collection program that is impacted by transition to full-producer responsibility for recycling is collection from Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional locations. This includes municipal offices/buildings, non-profits, faith centres and businesses. For these locations, and unlike residential locations, the former and current Regulations do not provide any level of funding for recycling. Collection of recycling from these locations was historically provided through several local municipal programs and was therefore subsequently including within the County program starting in 2013. Currently recycling continues to be collected from approximately 450 Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional locations that comply with the County's Waste By-Law. Locations that cannot comply with the by-law procure a private service for bins, etc.

To assist municipalities in retaining and maintaining recycling collections for small to medium sized Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional sources, Circular Materials Ontario has agreed to the premise of continuing this service in conjunction with their residential routes during the transition until the end of 2025. This will result in invoicing to the County for collection and processing of recycling from these locations. Post transition in 2026, the County would need to discuss separate recycling collections with GFL to continue servicing Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional locations. The County's new collection contract affords flexibility for such a decision if pursued.

Once more details are known regarding Circular Materials Ontario's new collection contractor, decisions will need to be made around service to these Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional locations during and post transition in 2026. Through municipal associations, staff will continue advocating to the province for an Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional plan for producer responsibility. Ideally all recyclables would be diverted from landfill, regardless of the source, and would be captured under full-producer responsibility.

Staff are committed to working with Circular Materials Ontario to achieve a seamless transition for residents of Dufferin County. Further information will be shared as details become available prior to Dufferin County's July 1, 2023 transition date.

Financial, Staffing, Legal, or IT Considerations

Financial impacts of the Blue Box Transition have been included in the 2023 budget. Estimated Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional collections and processing costs for all waste streams are also in the 2023 budget.

In Support of Strategic Plan Priorities and Objectives

Good Governance – ensure transparency, clear communication, prudent financial management

Sustainable Environment & Infrastructure – protect assets both in the natural and built environment

Inclusive & Supportive Community – support efforts to address current & future needs for a livable community

Respectfully Submitted By:

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

Prepared By:
Melissa Kovacs Reid
Manager of Waste Services

Reviewed by: Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer



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

Meeting Date: March 23, 2023

Subject: Capital Project Update – March 2023

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

Recommendation

THAT the report of the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated March 23, 2023, Capital Project Update – March 2023, 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 current status of each project along with anticipated start and completion dates. All projects are currently in the design/tender phase and are anticipated be tendered within the next weeks. All projects are anticipated to be completed by Fall of 2023.

Background & Discussion

As part of the County’s 2023 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	7.5	200m south of 20 Sideroad to Melancthon/ Osprey Townline, Township of Melancthon	Document Preparation	Spring/ Summer 2023	Fall 2023

Item No.	Location	Description	Length (km)	From/To	Status	Construction Start	Anticipated Completion
R2	DR21	Resurfacing, Curb and Gutter & Culvert Replacements	2.8	DR 124 to 2 nd Line E, Townships of Mulmur and Melancthon	Document Preparation	Spring/ Summer 2023	Fall 2023
R3	DR21 (Gravel Portion)	Asphalt Resurfacing	3.0	4 th Line NE to 350m SE of 5 th Line, Township of Melancthon	Document Preparation	Summer 2023	August 2023
Total Road Length (km)			13.3				

As part of the County’s 2023 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	DR 25, 0.87 km south of DR 10, Town of Grand Valley	Culvert 004-2507	Replace	Document Preparation	Spring/ Summer 2023	Fall 2023
S2	DR 25, 1.05 km north of Concession 6-7, Town of Grand Valley	Culvert 004-2508	Replace	Document Preparation	Spring/ Summer 2023	Fall 2023
S3	DR 7, 0.5 km west of DR 18 (Airport Rd), Town of Mono	Culvert 308250XC	Rehabilitate	Document Preparation	Spring/ Summer 2023	Fall 2023
S4	DR 21, 0.7 km east of 4 th Line NE, Township of Melancthon	Culvert 683279CUL	Replace	Document Preparation	Summer 2023	August 2023

Financial, Staffing, Legal, or IT Considerations

Funds for the work described in this report are provided through the 2023 Workplan approved with the 2023 budget.

In Support of Strategic Plan Priorities and Objectives

Good Governance – ensure transparency, clear communication, prudent financial management

Sustainable Environment & Infrastructure – protect assets both in the natural and built environment

Inclusive & Supportive Community – support efforts to address current & future needs for a livable community

Respectfully Submitted By:

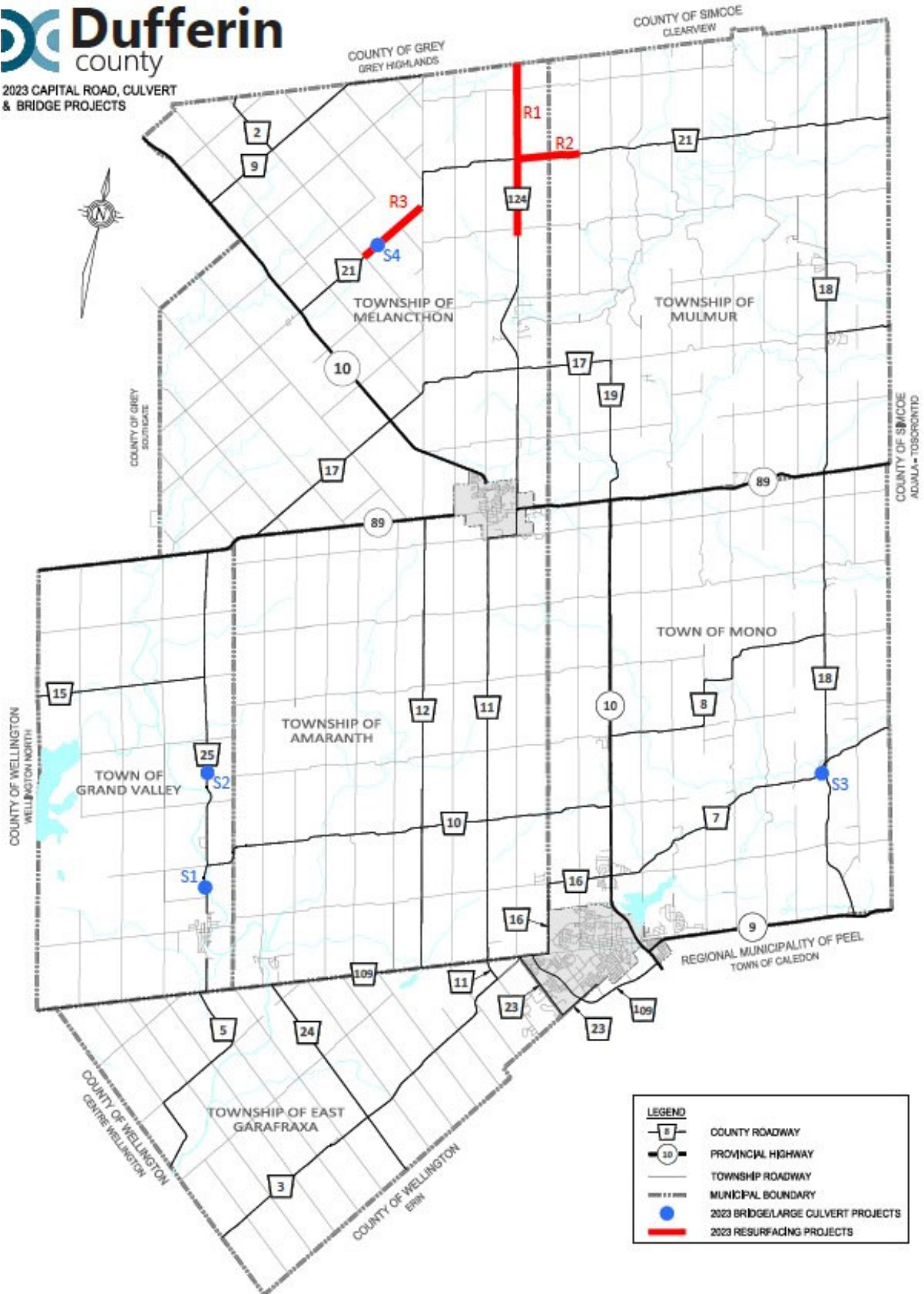
Scott C. Burns, P.Eng., C.E.T.
Director of Public Works/County Engineer

Attachment: Map of Dufferin County Projects & Photos

Reviewed by: Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer



2023 CAPITAL ROAD, CULVERT & BRIDGE PROJECTS





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



(R2) Dufferin County Road 21 – Pre-Construction Road Condition within Honeywood



(R2) Dufferin County Road 21 – Pre-Construction Road Condition



(R3) Dufferin County Road 21 – Reconstruction Project to be Paved with Hot Mix Asphalt



(S1) Culvert (004-2507) – Pre-Construction East Elevation



(S2) Culvert (004-2508) – Pre-Construction East Elevation



(S3) Culvert (308250XC) – Pre Construction North View



(S3) Culvert (308250XC) –Severe Delamination and Severe Spalling



(S4) Culvert 683279CUL – Pre-Construction South Elevation



374028 6TH LINE • AMARANTH ON • L9W 0M6

October 31, 2022

Scott Burns
County of Dufferin
55 Zina Street
Orangeville, Ontario L9W 1E5

Attention: Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee

Dear Scott,

At the regular meeting of Council held on October 5, 2022 the following resolution was made:

Resolution #: 8

Moved by: H. Foster

Seconded by: S. Niedzwiecki

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council of the Township of Amaranth request from the County of Dufferin the installation of a 4-way stop intersection at 20 Sideroad and County Road 12 and further request that the flashing red indicator be amended to flash red 4 ways.

CARRIED

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Yours truly,

Nicole Martin, Dipl. M.A.
CAO/Clerk



374028 6TH LINE • AMARANTH ON • L9W 0M6

January 20, 2023

County of Dufferin
30 Centre Street
Orangeville, ON L9W 2X1

SENT BY EMAIL TO:

Scott Burns, Director of Public Works - sburns@dufferincounty.ca
Councillor Chris Gerrits, Chair of Infrastructure & Environmental Services Committee -
cgerrits@dufferincounty.ca

Re: County Road 11 Request

At its regular meeting of Council held on January 11, 2023, the Township of Amaranth Council made the following motion:

Resolution #: 10

Moved by: A. Stirk

Seconded by: G. Little

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council of the Township of Amaranth request from the County of Dufferin that the speed limit on County Road 11 between County Road 109 and 5 Sideroad be lowered as a public safety measure;

And Further That County Road 11 be extended to a no passing zone from County Road 109 north to 5 Sideroad.

CARRIED

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you require any further information on this matter.

Yours truly,

Nicole Martin, Dipl. M.A.
CAO/Clerk