

# COUNCIL Highlights

## Council Meeting – Oct. 30, 2023

Below are highlights of what Council adopted at its meeting on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023:

- The report from the Lightfoot Working Group regarding an update on the establishment of a museum to honour the late Gordon Lightfoot was received and the working group was directed to report back to Council once legalities with the Lightfoot Estate have been finalized.
- The development of a City of Orillia Poverty Reduction Strategy was supported in principle. The Chief Administrative Officer and Councillor Durnford were directed to work with Lakehead University to develop a partnership that would deliver a Poverty Reduction Strategy for the city. The proposed Poverty Reduction Strategy will include but not be limited to:
  - Assessing current City of Orillia policies and poverty-reduction practices;
  - Facilitating focus groups to gain knowledge and insight into the experience of poverty in Orillia;
  - Engaging community partners from multiple sectors to create a long-term Poverty Reduction Strategy for the City of Orillia, with a focus on trauma-informed service delivery and building community resilience through a collective action approach;
  - Identifying potential implementation funding opportunities available from the Government of Canada, Province of Ontario, County of Simcoe, and other sources; and
  - Increasing community awareness about the impact childhood trauma has on later health, social outcomes, and the cycle of poverty;

A budget allocation of up to \$50,000 will be considered during the 2024 Budget deliberations to ensure the project can proceed. Councillor Durnford was directed to prepare a report or a Council Information Package memo outlining the parameters of the proposed partnership with Lakehead University and the proposed project plan.

- The report from Councillor Leatherdale regarding the installation of a backless bench on the floating dock that is situated across from the Orillia Waterfront Centre at Couchiching Beach Park was referred to the 2024 Budget deliberations.
- The report from Councillor Leatherdale regarding the resurfacing of the walking path that connects Coldwater Road West to the corner of Park Street and Brant

Street West was referred to the 2024 Budget deliberations.

- As recommended in the report from Councillor Fallis, a contribution increase of \$100,000, in addition to the \$200,000 allocated annually to the Affordable Housing Reserve was referred to the 2024 Budget deliberations.
- The report regarding recommendations on how to reduce the number of collisions at the Old Barrie Road and University Avenue intersection was received. Staff were directed to prepare an amendment to Traffic and Parking Regulation By-law Number 2007-55, as set out in Schedule "B" to the report, effective March 31, 2024.
- Council adopted the recommendations as set out on the Consent Agenda for the regular meeting of Council held on Monday, October 16, 2023.

The following recommendations from the Oct. 16, 2023 Council Committee session were adopted by Council at the meeting held on Oct. 30, 2023:

- An Addiction and Overdose Crisis Working Group was established with the following guiding objectives:
  - Identify a location and funding opportunities for a drop-in centre/community hub which would meet people's basic needs, build community connections, and provide one location access to harm reduction, housing, and other partner services;
  - Develop a public awareness and education campaign with a focus on reducing stigma and building support and funding for a drop-in centre/community hub;

The Addiction and Overdose Crisis Working Group be comprised of the following members:

- Councillor Cipolla
- Councillor Durnford
- A representative from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
- A representative from the Lighthouse
- A representative from the Couchiching Family Health Team
- A representative from the Ontario Provincial Police
- A representative from the Canadian Mental Health Association Simcoe County;

The Addiction and Overdose Crisis Working Group will invite Indigenous groups, as well as people with lived experience, and other organizations and resources to meetings, at the Working Group's discretion. Administrative support for the Addiction and Overdose Crisis Working Group will be provided by staff from the Office of the Mayor and Council. A copy of the working group's report be provided to the Member of Parliament for Simcoe North Adam Chambers, Member of Provincial Parliament for Simcoe North Jill Dunlop, the County of Simcoe Warden Basil Clark, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, all municipalities in Ontario, all Members of Provincial Parliament in Ontario, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, the Couchiching Ontario Health Team, and the Ontario Provincial Police to acknowledge and ask for their support in addressing the gaps identified in Schedule "A" to the report. The Opioid Crisis Working Group was

dissolved and the addiction and Overdose Crisis Working Group will be required to report back to Council by April 2024.

- The report regarding the feasibility and costs associated with installing and providing daily sanitation of four portable toilets, as well as establishing a regular garbage pick-up schedule near larger encampment sites located throughout the City was received as information at this time.
- The report regarding the rationale for the increased number of municipal beach swim advisories and an analysis of potential solutions to improve beach water quality including targeted stormwater management strategies was received. Staff, in consultation with the Environmental Advisory Committee, was directed to undertake and report back to Council on a comprehensive review of the City's existing Stormwater Operations and Maintenance Plans, as well as the associated resource plans and budget allocations. Given the complex nature of the various contributors of contamination and the potential cost to improve water quality, staff, in consultation with the Environmental Advisory Committee, was directed to investigate and report back to Council on the feasibility and costs associated with Microbial Source Tracking to determine the specific types and sources of contamination that result in public beach swim advisories.
- Chapter 22 of the City of Orillia Municipal Code - Council - Procedure was amended to enable an additional opportunity for Open Public Forum at the end of the meeting to enable a speaker to speak to issues within municipal jurisdiction with similar provisions as set out in Section 22.7.9 speak only to issues within municipal jurisdiction.
- Staff was authorized to pursue a re-scoped design project for the aeration system, primary screening upgrade and automating valves, as well as digester and boiler building retrofits at the Wastewater Treatment Centre. Funding for the alternate designs and options for the Wastewater Treatment Centre Aeration Dividing Wall Retrofit were appropriated from the existing Capital Project Number 04775. Any additional funding required for the construction of the Wastewater Treatment Centre Aeration Dividing Wall will be requested through future budget processes.

The full agenda is available on the City's website at [orillia.ca](http://orillia.ca).