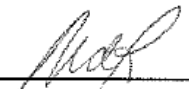


The Corporation of the Town of Ajax
GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE



Monday, February 8, 2016
Open Meeting at 1:30 p.m.
In-Camera to follow immediately after open meeting
River Plate Room, Town Hall
65 Harwood Avenue South

Confirmed by: 

AGENDA

Alternative formats available upon request by contacting:
accessibility@ajax.ca or 905-619-2529 ext. 3347

Anything in **blue** denotes an attachment/link. By clicking the links on the agenda page, you can jump directly to that section of the agenda. To manoeuvre back to the agenda page use the **Ctrl + Home** keys simultaneously **OR** use the "Bookmark" icon to the left of your screen to navigate from one report to the next

R. Ashby, Chair
M. Crawford, Vice Chair

Open Meeting

1. **Call To Order**
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**
3. **Adoption of In-Camera Minutes – December 10, 2015** (circulated separately)
 - *Any discussion will be held in the In-Camera Session*
4. **Consent Agenda** – *Considered to be routine, these items may be approved by one motion. Items may be separated and referred to the Discussion Agenda*
 - 4.1 **TO2015 Pan Am Games – Operating Costs Summary**, R. Ford, Chief Administrative Officer / C. McLardie, Manager of Strategic Communications 4
 - 4.2 **Contract Award – AFES – Dispatch System Software/Hardware Maintenance**, D. Sheen, Fire Chief / D. Lang, Deputy Fire Chief 6
 - 4.3 **2015 Year End Building Permit Activity and 2016 Projection Report**, P. Allore, Director of Planning & Development Services / J. Mamo, Manager of Building Approvals Section 8
 - 4.4 **Final Expenditure Report for Rossland Road Realignment Detailed Design**, P. Allore, Director of Planning & Development Services / C. Coleman, Manager of Engineering, Capital Projects 13
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| 4.10 | Final Report on Over Expenditure 2014 Local Road Resurfacing – Capital Account No: 954811 2014 Local Road Resurfacing – FGT – Capital Account No: 954911 , D. Meredith, Director of Operations & Environmental Services / M. Khawaja, Infrastructure & Asset Management Technologist | 51 |
| 4.11 | Animal Licensing Fee Increase , M. de Rond, Director of Legislative & Information Services/Clerk / D. Hannan, Manager, By-law Services | 54 |

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| 5.2 | Ajax Pilot Street Banner Program , P. Allore, Director of Planning & Development Services / L. Hausz, Manager Business Development & Marketing | 69 |

6. Presentations

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| 6.1 | 2016 Emerald Ash Borer Update , D. Meredith, Director of Operations & Environmental Services / C. Blencowe, Urban Forestry Technician / J. Schofield, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator / T. Field, Manager Environmental Services | 77 |
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7. Departmental Updates

In-Camera

8. Authority to Hold a Closed Meeting and Related In-Camera Session

- *A matter pertaining to the proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board [Sec. 239 (2)(c), Municipal Act, 2001, as amended]*
- *A matter pertaining to litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board [Sec. 239 (2)(e), Municipal Act, 2001, as amended]*
- *A matter of advice subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose [Sec. 239 (2)(f), Municipal Act, 2001, as amended]*

8.1 **Confidential Property Matter**

8.2 **Confidential Legal Matter**

9. Adjournment

TOWN OF AJAX REPORT



REPORT TO: General Government Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Rob Ford, Chief Administrative Officer, CPA, CMA, AMCT

PREPARED BY: Christie McLardie, Manager of Strategic Communications

SUBJECT: **TO2015 Pan Am Games – Operating Costs Summary**

WARD(S): ALL

DATE OF MEETING: February 8, 2016

REFERENCE: NA

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report “TO2015 Pan Am Games – Operating Costs Summary” be received for information.

BACKGROUND:

In July 2015, the Town of Ajax hosted 75 men’s and women’s softball and baseball events for the TO2015 Pan Am Games – the largest multi-sport event in Canada’s history. The Town took full advantage of the magnitude of the Games to showcase Ajax to the international community.

Throughout the three week period of the Games, the Town welcomed tens of thousands of people to Ajax. Spectators, athletes, media and local residents raved about the Pan Am Ajax experience – from the impressive President’s Choice Ajax Pan Am Ballpark to our amazing volunteers to the exciting community engagement programming we offered. The TO2015 Games were deemed the best ever, and Team Canada achieved record-breaking success, including three Gold medals in Ajax.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of the report is to provide a summary of the total operating costs for municipal services and community engagement programming for the Ajax Pan Am events. All capital costs associated with the President’s Choice Ajax Pan Am Ballpark have been separately reported to Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Municipal Services Agreement (MSA)

The Town was required to cover normal operating costs (wages, etc.) in support of the Games, with the agreement that services outside of normal operating costs (contracted security, bike corral, transportation signage, etc.) would be covered by the Province. The Town submitted

\$51,363 in costs to the Province in September 2015 for reimbursement. All costs were reimbursed to the Town in December 2015.

Municipal Designation Program, Community Engagement & Marketing

In total, the Town spent \$431,835 on supporting the Games. The final amount is significantly lower than the projected two-year costs of \$539,100.

Major costs included:

- Municipal Designation Program (banners, wraps, etc.).
- Volunteer program (300+ active volunteers worked 8,000+ hours).
- 15 community events (One Year Countdown, 2 Torch Relays, Pickering Town Centre Activation, Community Thank You, etc.). Events engaged 25,000+ people.
- Marketing initiatives (consultation, promotional material, social media campaigns, giveaways, etc.).
- Ball diamond permit revenues forfeited during the Games.

To offset costs, the Town applied to several provincial and federal grants and sought sponsorship. In 2015, staff were able to secure more than \$90,000 in funding to offset costs to the Town. As a result, only \$374,059, of the budgeted \$483,600, was transferred from the Strategic Initiatives Reserve to fund operating costs in 2015.

Summary of Costs

| Year | Budget | Expenditures (net of recoveries) | Over / (Under) Budget |
|-------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2014 | \$55,500 | \$57,776 | \$2,276 |
| 2015 | \$483,600 | \$374,059 | \$(109,541) |
| Total | \$539,100 | \$431,835 | \$(107,265) |

CONCLUSION:

Overall, the Town was able to achieve our aggressive program goals and objectives for the Games, while remaining significantly under budget. Staff are pleased to report the total under budget as \$107,265.

Christie McLardie – Manager of Strategic Communications

Rob Ford – Chief Administrative Officer, CPA, CMA, AMCT

TOWN OF AJAX REPORT



REPORT TO: General Government Committee

SUBMITTED BY: David Sheen, Fire Chief

PREPARED BY: Dave Lang, Deputy Fire Chief

SUBJECT: **Contract Award – AFES – Dispatch System
Software/Hardware Maintenance**

WARD(S): ALL

DATE OF MEETING: February 8, 2016

REFERENCE: RFS No. S15050

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council award the contract for the annual “XpertFire” Basic Platform with Distributed Copies, Fire Dispatch & Records Management, Disaster Preparedness & Response, Fire Truck-mounted Access w/Synch, including all Service, Maintenance and Annual Maintenance/Service/Software/Hardware to Crisys Limited in the estimated amount of \$114,802.35 (inclusive of all taxes), for a period of one year.
2. That Council authorize staff to renew the contract for an additional two, one year periods, pending an analysis and satisfactory performance review at the anniversary date of the contract, in the estimated amount of \$242,322.85 (inclusive of all taxes).

BACKGROUND:

Implemented in 2002, Crisys Limited currently supplies Fire and Emergency Services with XpertFire software licenses, as well as hardware and maintenance support for the fire dispatch process for both the Town of Ajax and City of Pickering. The software and hardware products are located in Ajax Fire Headquarters as well as the remote fire stations and fire apparatus. The products included in this software, hardware and maintenance contract are critical components of Fire’s daily operations and include: Fire CAD dispatch with 911 integration; video and pre-alerting of fire stations for emergency calls; cue for on board mobile computers located in fire apparatus; rosters; scheduling and Disaster Preparedness and Response.

With the initial and each subsequent capital purchase of software licenses and hardware, there is an annual maintenance component. Payment of this annual maintenance provides the Town with free access to upgrades, critical patches and support.

DISCUSSION:

The current Purchasing By-Law allows for purchases through negotiations, under certain conditions, more specifically, “where, at the discretion of the Department Head, in consultation with the Manager of Purchasing, it is deemed to be in the best interest of the municipality to negotiate with vendors.”

Crisys Limited does not utilize 3rd party distributors and is the sole provider of software and hardware maintenance for the XpertFire dispatch system.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Funds for the AFES Computer Aided Dispatch System – software and hardware maintenance are included in the Fire Service annual operating budget.

CONCLUSION:

It is the recommendation of staff that CriSys Limited be awarded the contract for AFES Dispatch System Software/Hardware Maintenance, as a sole source purchase.

Dave Lang, Deputy Fire Chief

David Sheen, Fire Chief

TOWN OF AJAX REPORT



REPORT TO: General Government Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Allore, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Director of Planning and Development Services

PREPARED BY: Jack Mamo, C.E.T., C.B.C.O.
Manager of Building Approvals Section

SUBJECT: 2015 Year End Building Permit Activity and 2016 Projection Report

WARD(S): All

DATE OF MEETING: February 8, 2016

REFERENCE: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached 2015 Year End Building Permit Activity Report be received as information.

BACKGROUND:

Attached is the 2015 (January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015) Building Permit Activity Report.

DISCUSSION:

The following is a summary of the 2015 Year End Building Permit Activity Report:

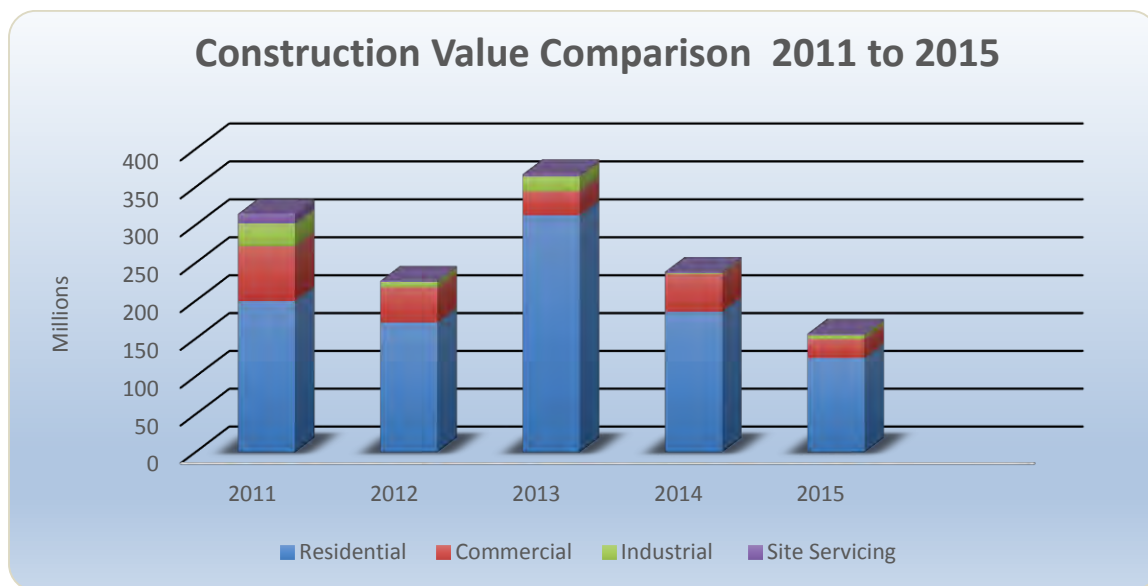
- Total construction value for the year of building permit activity decreased to \$157 million in 2015, from \$238 million in 2014, representing a decrease of 34. Construction values are calculated for issued building permits only and not for permits that are in circulation. See ATT-1.
- Total construction value for residential permits decreased by 32% from \$185 million in 2014 to \$125 million in 2015.
- The 2015 forecast for new residential housing permits (i.e. detached, semi-detached, townhouse, apartment) was 627, the actual number of units for which permits were issued was 334 which represents 53% of the projected units.
- The number of building permits issued for minor residential projects (i.e. decks, sheds, finished basements) was 70% higher than the previous year. A total of 239 permits were issued for these projects in 2015, versus 140 issued in 2014.

- Total construction value for non-residential permits decreased from \$53 million in 2014 to \$32 million in 2015; representing a 40% reduction. Despite the decrease in permit value, more non-residential permits were issued in 2015. A total of 178 non-residential permits were issued in 2015 compared to 167 in 2014.
- The 2015 forecast for new non-residential floor area was 18,308m² (197,066 ft²), the actual amount of new floor area for which a permit was issued was 11,862m² (127,682 ft²), representing 65% of the projected area.

Contributing to the decrease in new non-residential floor area were projects for the Salvation Army; Volvo, Jaguar & Land Rover; Salem Business Park; Ajax Estates; and Orchard Road, which were all anticipated in 2015 but were postponed.

- Notwithstanding the overall 2015 non-residential figures, the industrial sector saw an increase in both number of permits issued and construction value when compared to 2014. A total of 20 industrial building permits were issued representing a 33% rise, and construction value of \$5 million, an increase of 233% over the previous year.

The following graph illustrates a comparison of construction values for the past five years. Note that commercial building permits include a broad range of uses permitted such as offices, restaurants, places of worship and public buildings. Buildings in the industrial category include buildings associated with assembling, fabricating, manufacturing, processing and repair or storage of goods and materials.



The following table highlights noteworthy projects approved for construction in 2015:

| Description | Location | Area | Value (\$) | Type |
|---|---------------------|--|--------------|------------|
| Lexus Automotive Dealership | 180 Achilles Rd. | 6,804 m ² (73,238 ft ²) | \$12,000,000 | New |
| Accettone Crematorium and Reception Building | 384 Finley Ave. | 864 m ² (9,300 ft ²) | \$2,600,000 | New |
| Green Storage – four self-service storage buildings | 180 Station St. | 1,731 m ² (18,632 ft ²) | \$1,500,000 | New |
| Cantoll Building | 1 Keensford Dr. | 598 m ² (6,437 ft ²) | \$1,200,000 | New |
| DDSB Storage Building | 710 Bayly St. E. | 557 m ² (5,995 ft ²) | \$ 530,000 | New |
| Panera Bread | 268 Kingston Rd. E. | 480 m ² (5,167 ft ²) | \$650,000 | Alteration |
| Grand Harwood Sales Pavilion | 27 Station St. | 282 m ² (3,035 ft ²) | \$500,000 | New |

2016 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTIONS

Early projections indicate that there will be an increase in development in the residential sector for 2016. An estimated 872 new residential housing units (i.e. detached, semi-detached, townhouse, apartment) will be created in 2016 compared to the 334 created in 2015.

The increase is primarily attributed to the 278 units in the second building of Medallion's Vision at Pat Bayly Square development, a 25 storey mixed use building. As Medallion prepares to commence building 'B', building 'A' will continue to rise towards its ultimate 25 storey height; both requiring a significant amount of staff resources during the review and inspection processes.

An additional 132 units will be accommodated within the 5 storey, Revera retirement residence located at 1010 Westney Road S.

Expected among the non-residential development projects that will be approved for construction in 2016 are:

- Volvo, Jaguar & Land Rover Durham: auto dealership – 280 Achilles Road
- Salem Business Park: two-storey prestige employment building – 20 Blowers Crescent
- Carterra North: grocery store and two storey multi-tenant commercial/office building – Rossland Road E
- Rexton: one storey multi-unit business/commercial – Rossland Road W at Harkins Drive

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

COMMUNICATION ISSUES:

None

CONCLUSION:

Building permit activity was lower than anticipated for 2015. The development forecast for 2016 indicates the construction of a higher number of residential units and moderate non-residential growth. The future outlook for development suggests a shift toward more complex mid and high rise buildings, each requiring considerably more staff resources than low rise developments.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATT-1: Town of Ajax Building Report – Year-to-Date – December 2015

Jack Mamo, CBCO, CET
Chief Building Official/Manager of Building Approvals

Paul Allore, MCIP, RPP
Director of Planning & Development Services

TOWN OF AJAX BUILDING REPORT - YEAR - TO - DATE - DECEMBER 2015

| TYPE OF PERMIT | DECEMBER 2015 (Year to Date) | | | | DECEMBER 2014 (Year to Date) | | |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| | # of Applications Rec'd in 2015 | # of Applications in circulation | # of Permits Issued | Construction Value(\$) | # of Applications Rec'd in 2014 | # of Permits Issued | Construction Value(\$) |
| RESIDENTIAL: | | | | | | | |
| New Residential House: i.e. detached, semi detached, condo, townhouse etc. (DC charges applicable) | 367 | 70 | 334 | 117,216,465 | 387 | 414 | 161,734,100 |
| Residential House Additions, Alterations, Demolitions i.e. detached, semi detached, condo, townhouse etc. | 89 | 12 | 81 | 2,375,486 | 65 | 63 | 2,696,948 |
| Residential Multi Storey: i.e. apartments, condo etc. | 7 | 1 | 7 | 453,500 | 2 | 3 | 18,627,296 |
| Minor Residential: i.e. decks, garages etc. | 262 | 19 | 239 | 3,203,400 | 142 | 140 | 1,595,365 |
| Accessory Apartment: i.e. 9.8 OFC, OBC | 57 | 11 | 51 | 1,473,192 | 31 | 30 | 660,042 |
| Sub-Total | 782 | 113 | 712 | 124,722,043 | 627 | 650 | 185,313,751 |
| COMMERICAL: | | | | | | | |
| Assembly Permit: i.e. community facilities, Day Care etc. | 20 | 3 | 22 | 6,386,054 | 33 | 28 | 42,018,966 |
| Business & Personal Service: i.e. offices, hair salons etc. | 24 | 4 | 24 | 1,727,050 | 10 | 12 | 1,279,200 |
| Detention, Care & Treatment: i.e. hospitals, Group Homes etc. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Minor Non-Residential i.e. temp. tents, School Portables etc. | 39 | 3 | 38 | 2,634,910 | 36 | 33 | 2,850,350 |
| Mercantile: i.e. retail, Market, Shopping Mall etc. | 21 | 6 | 19 | 13,504,200 | 28 | 22 | 2,974,613 |
| Change of Use: i.e. office to private school | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sign Permit | 47 | 1 | 43 | 667,610 | 50 | 49 | 390,699 |
| Sub-Total | 151 | 17 | 146 | 24,919,824 | 157 | 144 | 49,513,828 |
| INDUSTRIAL: | | | | | | | |
| Industrial Permit: i.e. Manufacturing Building, Parking Garage etc. | 25 | 7 | 20 | 5,143,060 | 13 | 15 | 1,507,920 |
| Sub-Total | 25 | 7 | 20 | 5,143,060 | 13 | 15 | 1,507,920 |
| Site Servicing i.e. underground sewer, water and drainage | 12 | 3 | 12 | 2,007,974 | 9 | 8 | 1,812,600 |
| Sub-Total | 12 | 3 | 12 | 2,007,974 | 9 | 8 | 1,812,600 |
| TOTAL | 970 | 140 | 890 | 156,792,901 | 806 | 817 | 238,148,099 |

TOWN OF AJAX REPORT



REPORT TO: General Government Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Allore
Director of Planning and Development Services

PREPARED BY: Carol Coleman
Manager of Engineering, Capital Projects

SUBJECT: **Final Expenditure Report for Rossland Road Realignment Detailed Design**

WARD: 1

DATE OF MEETING: February 8, 2016

REFERENCE: Capital Account 916311 - Rossland Road West Town Limit to Church Street
GGC Report April 22, 2010 Contract Award – Rossland Road Realignment Detailed Design

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the report on the net over-expenditure of \$96,781.59 (net of HST rebate) on the Rossland Road West Town Limit to Church Street design project, Capital Account No. 916311, previously awarded to R.V. Anderson Associates Limited, be received for information.
2. That Council approve the following funding, to be allocated to Capital Account No. 916311:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Development Charges 2013 | \$ 81,392.89 |
| Development Reserve | <u>\$ 10,620.32</u> |
| Total | <u>\$ 92,013.21</u> |

BACKGROUND:

In 2009, the Town completed a Schedule 'C' Class Environmental Assessment (EA) and preliminary design for improvements to Rossland Road from Brock Road in Pickering to Westney Road in Ajax. In 2010, the Town awarded a contract for consulting services to prepare the detailed designs and request for tender documents for the preferred design between the west Town boundary and Church Street.

The proposed works include the design for:

- The realignment of Rossland Road between Riverside Drive and Church Street;
- The reconstruction and widening of Rossland Road from the west Town boundary to the realigned portion;

- The construction of a new 4 lane bridge structure over East Duffins Creek;
- The construction of a new 4 lane bridge structure over Urfe Creek; and
- The proposed intersection improvements and signalization of Rossland Road and Church Street.

The realignment and widening of Rossland Road within these limits is needed to improve local traffic flow, and enhance safety by improving site lines, adding dedicated turning lanes, transit operations and storm drainage.

The construction is being undertaken in two phases:

- Phase 1: new structure over East Duffins Creek, new alignment of Rossland Road from East Duffins Creek to Church Street and new signals and intersection improvements at Rossland Road and Church Street
- Phase 2: new structure over Urfe Creek and reconstruction and widening of Rossland Road from the west Town boundary to Church Street.

Phase 1 was completed in August 2015. Phase 2 began in January 2016 and is expected be completed in the fall of 2017.

Under the Capital Expenditure Control Policy, staff are required to report when project expenditures have exceeded the approved spending limit.

DISCUSSION:

During the course of the project additional expenditures were incurred due to a number of issues that were unanticipated at the time of contract award. These included:

1. Additional labour to split the project into two separate contracts for the construction of the realignment so that the construction could be completed in two phases.
2. Additional design related to storm water quality and quantity control at Urfe Creek over and above the requirements identified during the EA and preliminary design.
3. Additional investigation and design to deal with soft soils issues identified during the geotechnical investigation for the detailed design on both sides of Urfe Creek and both sides of East Duffins Creek.
4. Additional design to relocate the local watermain due to a conflict with the new storm sewer and soft soil areas, west of Urfe Creek.
5. Redesign of the road and watermain in the vicinity of Bunting Court to protect two red oak trees that are estimated to be over 200 years old.
6. Modification of the street light design for LED street lights based on a change of standards by the Town.
7. Additional coordination with Region of Durham staff to meet Regional standards and specifications.
8. Additional design to replace storm sewers over and above the requirements identified during the EA and preliminary design.

9. Design of driveway relocation for 560 Rossland Road.

10. Testing for asbestos in the existing asphalt.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

| Vendor | Award Date | Approved Spending Limit | Actual Expenditures | Over Expenditure |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| R. V. Anderson Associates Limited | April 22, 2010 | \$621,324.00 | \$718,105.59 | \$96,781.59 |

Available Budget - GGC Report April 22, 2010 \$0.00

Over-Expenditures/ Under Expenditures:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| R. V. Anderson Associates Limited | \$96,781.59 | |
| Survey Work and Other Fees | <u>(\$4,768.38)</u> | <u>\$92,013.21</u> |
| Over Budget | | <u>\$92,013.21</u> |

Additional funding in the amount of \$81,392.89 will be allocated from Development Charges 2013 and additional funding in the amount of 10,620.32 will be allocated from Development Reserve.

COMMUNICATION ISSUES:

N/A

CONCLUSION:

The original approved spending limit for the Rossland Road West Town Limit to Church Street design project has been exceeded and this report has been prepared in accordance with the Capital Expenditure Control Policy.

ATTACHMENTS:

N/A

Carol Coleman, P.Eng.
Manager of Engineering, Capital Projects

Paul Allore, MCIP, RPP
Planning and Development Services



TOWN OF AJAX REPORT

REPORT TO: General Government Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Allore, MCIP, RPP
Director of Planning & Development Services

PREPARED BY: Sean McCullough, MCIP, RPP
Development Planner

SUBJECT: **2015 Committee of Adjustment Update**

WARD: All

DATE OF MEETING: February 8, 2016

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report to General Government Committee entitled “2015 Committee of Adjustment Update” dated February 8, 2016, be received for information.

REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the decisions of the Committee of Adjustment with respect to Minor Variance applications. Decisions of the Committee of Adjustment can be appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board within 20 days of the decision being rendered.

A summary of the decisions made by the Committee of Adjustment over 2015 is summarized in Table 1. In 2015, staff processed 32 minor variance applications, holding 11 regular meetings and 3 special meetings. The requests ranged from parking/drive aisle/loading space reductions, reductions to setbacks and lot requirements, increases to accessory building gross floor areas and heights, and requests for additional uses or expansions to legal non-conforming uses. These applications were supported by staff, and were subject to various conditions. In all cases, the Committee accepted staff's positive recommendations. Three of the decisions were appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board.

CONCLUSION:

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

Paul Allore, MCIP, RPP
Director, Planning & Development Services

Gary Muller, MCIP, RPP
Manager of Planning

Sean McCullough, MCIP, RPP
Development Planner

Table 1: Summary of 2015 Committee of Adjustment Decisions (January 2015 through to December 2015)

| APPLICATION | RELIEF REQUESTED/ BY-LAW REQUIREMENTS | STAFF COMMENT | DECISION |
|---|--|--|--|
| A1/15 Gordon Crawford 62 Daniels Crescent | To permit a maximum driveway width of 5.4 metres. | The 0.4 metre increase in driveway width would not dominate the streetscape and would not negatively impact the surrounding neighbourhood character, as similar widenings have taken place within the immediate neighbourhood. | Approved with conditions: 1. That the Owner/Applicant obtain a building permit for the proposed accessory apartment, or this decision shall become null and void; and 2. That the proposed driveway widening apply only to the subject property, and shall not encroach into the Town's boulevard. |
| A2/15 1825398 Ontario Inc. 520 Westney Road South, Unit 11 | To permit a commercial fitness centre (Crossfit Gym). | Based on the observations of the parking utilization study, size and type of Commercial Fitness Centre, staff consider the request to permit a Commercial Fitness Centre (Crossfit Gym) appropriate and minor in nature. | Approved with the condition: 1. That the proposed Commercial Fitness Centre only be permitted to operate from Unit 11 (520 Westney Road S.). |
| A3/15 Adam Durke & Deserrai Buunk 13 Dowers Drive | To permit a maximum driveway width of 5.4 metres. | The 0.4 metre increase in driveway width would not dominate the streetscape and would not negatively impact the surrounding neighbourhood character, as similar widenings have taken place within the immediate neighbourhood. | Approved with conditions: 1. That the Owner/Applicant obtain a building permit for the proposed accessory apartment, or this decision shall become null and void; and 2. That the proposed driveway widening apply only to the subject property, and shall not encroach into the Town's boulevard. |
| A4/15 2371200 Ontario Inc. 484 Rossland Road West | To permit a temporary sales structure in an Open Space (OS) Zone and a minimum setback of 7.5 metres from an exterior side lot line (Rossland Road West) to a temporary sales structure. | The requested variance to permit a temporary sales structure is considered to be minor in nature and desirable for the appropriate 'temporary' development of the land. | Approved with conditions: 1. That the applicant obtain approval of Site Plan Application SP2/15 and enter into a temporary sales |

| APPLICATION | RELIEF REQUESTED/ BY-LAW REQUIREMENTS | STAFF COMMENT | DECISION |
|--|---|---|---|
| | | | <p>structure agreement with the Town or this decision shall become null and void; and</p> <p>2. That the applicant obtain approval of Zoning By-law Amendment Application Z1/15 or this decision shall become null and void.</p> |
| A5/15 Messier-Dowty 491 Mackenzie Avenue | To permit an accessory building in the front yard, a maximum accessory building height of 7.6 metres, and an accessory building with a maximum gross floor area of 446 m ² . | The proposed accessory structure would not impact abutting properties with respect to visual impact, and overshadow. | <p>Approved with the condition:</p> <p>1. That the Owner/Applicant obtains a building permit for the proposed accessory structure.</p> |
| A6/15 Karmann Homes 2006 Ltd. 2977 Range Line Road | To permit a maximum lot coverage of 28%. | The requested 3% increase in lot coverage would not represent an unreasonable imposition on the outdoor amenity space, as the proposed dwelling will have a sizeable amenity space in the rear yard, and maintain adequate amenity space in the front yard. | <p>Approved with conditions:</p> <p>1. That the Owner submit a Pickering Beach Site Plan Application and receive Site Plan Approval from the Town of Ajax; or this decision shall become null and void; and</p> <p>2. That the Owner obtain a building permit for the proposed single detached dwelling, or this decision shall become null and void.</p> |
| A7/15 Windcorp Grand Harwood Place Ltd. 184 Harwood Avenue S. | <p>To permit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a minimum of 1.0 spaces per unit for the exclusive use of the occupants in addition to 0.1 space per unit for the exclusive use of visitors; a minimum of 154 parking spaces for all permitted non-residential uses for the proposed development; the front wall to be located 4.5 metres and the canopy to be located 2.2 metres from the front lot line (Harwood Ave. S.); the north exterior side wall to be located between 8.0 metres (underground parking) and 11.2 metres (aboveground) from the north exterior side lot line; and | <p>In staff's view, the proposed parking ratio of 1.1 spu (inclusive of visitors) and 154 spaces for non-residential uses meets the general intent and purpose of the Official Plan and Zoning By-law and is desirable for the appropriate development of the land.</p> <p>In staff's view, the proposed increases to the maximum 'Build-Within Zones' would meet the general intent and purpose of the Official Plan and Zoning By-law and</p> | <p>Approved with conditions:</p> <p>1. That the applicant obtain approval of Site Plan Application SP2/14 and enter into a site plan agreement with the Town, or this decision shall become null and void;</p> <p>2. That the applicant obtain a building permit for the proposed building, or this decision shall become null and void; and</p> |

| APPLICATION | RELIEF REQUESTED/ BY-LAW REQUIREMENTS | STAFF COMMENT | DECISION |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the south exterior side wall to be located 3.8 metres (aboveground) from the south exterior side lot line. | is desirable for the appropriate development of the land. | 3. That the lands associated with the proposed development, being part of the Harwood Avenue right-of-way, be stopped-up and closed as per the Municipal Act requirements, or this decision shall become null and void. |
| A8/15 Shaun Gallagher 2974 Ebony Street | To permit an addition to a dwelling that is setback 6.0 metres from the front lot line and a 5.4 metre setback from the front and exterior side lot lines to a platform greater than 1.2 metres above finished ground level. | The request to permit a minimum setback from a front lot line of 6.0 metres (a 1.62 metre reduction) would maintain a sufficient amount of landscaped open space between the dwelling and the street. The proposed reduction of 7.62 metres to 5.4 metres (a 2.22 metre reduction) to the front yard and exterior side yard setbacks to the proposed platform (second floor balcony) is considered appropriate as it would maintain a sufficient buffer from the street. | Application approved by the Committee with conditions. Appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board. |
| A9/15 Karmann Homes 2006 Ltd. 2977 Ebony Street | To permit a maximum lot coverage of 31%, to accommodate a proposed single detached dwelling. | The proposed dwelling will not be of a size that is out of character with the existing neighbourhood and would maintain all required setbacks. | Approved with conditions: 1. That the Owner submit a Pickering Beach Site Plan Application and receive Site Plan Approval from the Town of Ajax; or this decision shall become null and void; and 2. That the Owner obtain a building permit for the proposed single detached dwelling, or this decision shall become null and void. |
| A10/15 Bruce and Annie Parker 31 Sheldon Drive | To permit a maximum lot coverage of 35.7% to accommodate a sunroom addition. | The proposed sunroom would not project any further into the required rear yard than the existing deck. Since the deck is elevated, there is amenity space underneath the proposed sunroom addition. | Approved with the condition: 1. That the owner/applicant obtain a building permit for the construction of the sunroom, or this decision shall become null and void. |

| APPLICATION | RELIEF REQUESTED/ BY-LAW REQUIREMENTS | STAFF COMMENT | DECISION |
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| A11/15 Medallion Developments (Castlefields) Ltd. 72A Snowling Drive | To request that Section 2.4 vi) of Zoning By-law 95-2003, as amended not apply to the subject lands, and to permit a minimum lot frontage of 9.0 metres and a maximum lot coverage of 46%, to accommodate a proposed detached dwelling. | Given that the R1-E and R1-F Zones require the same setbacks, staff consider it appropriate to develop the lot in accordance with the R1-F Zone. | Approved with conditions: 1. That Block 140, 40M-2449 and Block 191, 40M-2386, merge together to create one conveyable parcel of land, or this decision shall become null and void; and 2. That the Owner obtain a building permit for the proposed single detached dwelling, or this decision shall become null and void. |
| A12/15 Green Storage Ajax Inc. 180 Station Street | To permit a minimum of 40 parking spaces, a minimum setback of 3.0 metres to the west interior side lot line, and a setback from the CN rail line of 16.6 metres from the edge of the railway right-of-way. | Town of Ajax Planning and Transportation staff have reviewed the Parking Utilization Letter and are satisfied that the proposed 40 parking spaces are sufficient to accommodate the parking demands of the proposed development. The proposed setback is in keeping with the existing alignment of Building A, and CN Rail has indicated that they have no concerns. | Approved with conditions: 1. That the applicant obtain approval of Site Plan Amendment Application SPA8/13 and enter into a site plan agreement with the Town, or this decision shall become null and void; and 2. That the applicant obtain a building permit for the proposed development or this decision shall become null and void. |
| A13/15 Dalleh Ghada 1 Deverill Crescent | To permit a maximum driveway width of 5.4 metres. | The 0.4 metre increase in driveway width would not dominate the streetscape and would not negatively impact the surrounding neighborhood character, as similar widenings have taken place within the immediate neighborhood. | Approved with conditions: 1. That the Owner/ Applicant obtain a building permit for the proposed accessory apartment, or this decision shall become null and void; and 2. That the proposed driveway widening apply only to the subject property, and shall not encroach into the Town's boulevard. |
| A14/15 John Boddy Developments Ltd. | To permit a maximum garage width of 5.4 metres and a maximum driveway width of 5.4 metres. | The subject property has a lot frontage of 11.2 metres, which is larger than the surrounding lots which have a lot | Approved with conditions: 1. That the Owner/Applicant obtain a |

| APPLICATION | RELIEF REQUESTED/ BY-LAW REQUIREMENTS | STAFF COMMENT | DECISION |
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| 59 Sharplin Drive | | frontage of 10.4 metres. The 0.4 metre increase in driveway width would not dominate the streetscape, occupying approximately 48% of the lot frontage. | building permit for the proposed detached dwelling, or this decision shall become null and void; and 2. That the proposed driveway widening apply only to the subject property, and shall not encroach into the municipal boulevard. |
| A15/15 John Boddy Developments Ltd. 71 Sharplin Drive | To permit a maximum garage width of 5.4 metres and a maximum driveway width of 5.4 metres. | The subject property has a lot frontage of 11.2 metres, which is larger than the surrounding lots which have a lot frontage of 10.4 metres. The 0.4 metre increase in driveway width would not dominate the streetscape, occupying approximately 48% of the lot frontage | Approved with conditions: 1. That the Owner/Applicant obtain a building permit for the proposed detached dwelling, or this decision shall become null and void; and 2. That the proposed driveway widening apply only to the subject property, and shall not encroach into the municipal boulevard. |
| A16/15 2326096 Ontario Inc. 260-280 Achilles Road | To permit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area used for outdoor display and sale provides a side yard of 2.0 metres To permit a minimum off-street parking requirement of 1 parking space per 91 m² of gross floor area; To permit 1 loading space; To permit a minimum setback from the west interior side lot line of 1.65 metres; The required Minimum Built Frontage shall be located between 3 metres (minimum) and 27 metres (maximum) of the front lot line; To permit a Minimum Second Floor Area (GFA) of 685.0 m² ; To permit a driveway aisle and a single row of visitor parking between an adjacent street and any part of the building facade within the build-within zone To permit a Minimum Gross Floor Area of 3,720.0 m² ; and | The proposed outdoor landscaped vehicle display area will not negatively impact the existing Infiniti dealership located to the west. Eliminating the need for a second loading space allows the opportunity to provide for additional vehicle storage space, which is a greater requisite for the daily operations of the dealerships. The 15.48 metre buffer distance between buildings is suitable for buildings of this size and massing. the request to permit a minimum built frontage located between 3 metres (minimum) and 27 metres (maximum) would be deemed appropriate and desirable as the building will still maintain a strong building presence along the street. The requested variance is considered to be minor in nature and desirable for the appropriate development of the land. | Approved with conditions: 1. That the applicant obtain approval of Site Plan Application SP8/14 and enter into a site plan agreement with the Town, to the satisfaction of the Town, or this decision shall become null and void; 2. That the applicant obtain a building permit from the Town or this decision shall become null and void; and 3. That the applicant obtain a building and land use permit and a sign permit from the Ministry of Transportation prior to the issuance of a building permit at the Town. |

| APPLICATION | RELIEF REQUESTED/ BY-LAW REQUIREMENTS | STAFF COMMENT | DECISION |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To permit a Minimum Building Height of 2 storeys and 9.5 metres. | | |
| A17/15 Cougs (Ajax) Ltd. Draft Plan of Subdivision S-A-2008-01 (Phase 2) | To permit a maximum lot coverage of 80% for interior lots, a maximum lot coverage of 65% for exterior (corner) lots, and a minimum setback of 0.5 metres from an attached garage to a public laneway. | The requested increase in lot coverage would not represent an unreasonable imposition on the outdoor amenity space, as the proposed dwelling units will have a sizeable amenity space between the dwelling and garage, in the form of a courtyard. A setback of 0.5 metres from a private garage and a rear lane is consistent with other rear-lane townhouses located within the Town. | Approved with conditions: 1. That the Owner/Applicant obtain building permits for the proposed dwelling units, or this decision shall become null and void. |
| Applications A18/15 and A19/15 withdrawn. | | | |
| A20/15 Sundial Homes (Ajax) Ltd. 12 Headon Avenue | To permit a minimum lot frontage of 10.7 metres. | The requested variance would maintain a consistent streetscape, as the lots abutting the lands to the north are zoned R1-E, and R1-F, which require minimum lot frontages of 10.4 metres and 9.0 metres, respectively | Approved with no conditions. |
| A21/15 2450620 Ontario Ltd. 180 Achilles Road | To permit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a minimum of 39 off-street parking spaces. 1 loading space; a minimum setback from the west interior side lot line of 0.5 metres to an underground structure; a minimum setback from the east interior side lot line of 5.9 metres; the required Minimum Built Frontage to be located between 3 metres (minimum) and 26 metres (maximum) from the front lot line; and a driveway aisle and a single row of visitor parking between an adjacent street and any part of the building facade within the build-within zone. | The requested variances are appropriate and desirable as the building would still maintain a strong building presence along the street. The proposed parking and loading space were supported by studies and reviewed by transportation staff, staff consider the request appropriate for the desirable development of the lands. | Approved with conditions: 1. That the applicant obtain approval of Site Plan Application SP7/15 and enter into a site plan agreement with the Town, to the satisfaction of the Town, or this decision shall become null and void; and 2. That the applicant obtain a building permit from the Town or this decision shall become null and void. |

| APPLICATION | RELIEF REQUESTED/ BY-LAW REQUIREMENTS | STAFF COMMENT | DECISION |
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| A22/15 Muhammad Yahya 14 Holroyd Street | To permit uncovered steps to encroach 0.6 metres into the required 1.2 metre east interior side yard setback. | The steps maintain access to the rear yard by providing one step down, and a return step to grade. Therefore, the requested variance to permit uncovered steps to encroach 0.6 metres into the required east interior side yard setback is considered to be minor in nature and desirable for the appropriate development of the lands. | Approved with the condition: 1. That the Owner obtain a building permit for the side entrance, as identified on Figure 2, or this decision shall become null and void. |
| A23/15 Tina Fang 50 Marjoram Drive | To permit a maximum driveway width of 5.4 metres. | The 0.4 metre increase in the driveway width would not result in the driveway dominating the streetscape and would not negatively impact the surrounding neighbourhood character, as similar widenings have taken place within the immediate neighbourhood. | Approved with conditions: 1. That the Owner/Applicant obtain a building permit for the proposed accessory apartment, or this decision shall become null and void; and 2. That the proposed driveway widening apply only to the subject property, and shall not encroach into the Town's boulevard. |
| A24/15 Andrew and Margit Mascella 69 Admiral Drive | To permit a maximum accessory building height of 5.8 metres above the established grade and a maximum gross floor area of 72.5 m ² and maximum lot coverage of 12.5% for an accessory building (detached garage). | Given the existing vegetation, privacy fence, the proposed setback from the property lines, as well as the grade change, staff are of the opinion that the proposed variances maintains the general intent and purpose of the Official Plan and Zoning By-law, and is considered to be minor in nature. | Approved with conditions: 1. That the proposed accessory building is not to be used for human habitation or occupation for gain as per Section 4.1.1 ii); and 2. That the Owner obtain a building permit for the proposed accessory building, or this decision shall become null and void. |
| A25/15 2180187 Ontario Inc. 4 Chisholm Court | To permit the addition of two loading spaces and associated loading doors in a front yard. | There is one pre-existing loading space and door, which was actively being used by the previous owner within the front yard and the proposal is to make modifications to the existing loading space and create an additional loading space with associated dock/doors. | Approved with conditions: 1. That the owner obtain site plan approval and enter into a Site Plan Agreement with the Town, or this decision shall become null and void; |

| APPLICATION | RELIEF REQUESTED/ BY-LAW REQUIREMENTS | STAFF COMMENT | DECISION |
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| | | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. That the owner obtain a building permit for the proposed loading doors, or the decision shall become null and void; 3. That the four existing parking spaces to the east of the proposed loading doors be relocated on the site or this decision shall become null and void. |
| A26/15 Sanjay Jain 8 Stevensgate Drive | To permit a maximum lot coverage of 47.9% and to permit a minimum rear yard setback of 5.3 metres to accommodate a sunroom addition. | An increase in lot coverage of 2.9% (45% to 47.9%) would not represent an unreasonable imposition on the outdoor amenity area as the proposed sunroom is to be built above an existing elevated deck. The subject lands back onto a stormwater management pond, therefore the reduced rear yard setback would not negatively impact the property to the rear. | <p>Approved with the condition:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the owner/applicant obtain a building permit for the construction of the sunroom addition, or this decision shall become null and void. |
| A27/15 Complete Performance Centre 72 Orchard Road | To permit all required parking in the front yard arranged in multiple rows. | In staff's view, the multiple rows of parking would not detract from the existing building and the proposed addition. The existing building and the addition would continue to be the primary focus of the site and along the street. Further, the requested variance will preserve trees located in the interior side yard. | <p>Approved with Conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the applicant obtain approval of Site Plan Application SP9/13 and enter into a site plan agreement with the Town, to the satisfaction of the Town, or this decision shall become null and void; and 2. That the applicant obtain a building permit from the Town, or this decision shall become null and void. |
| A28/15 Gergi El-Saikali 80 Lincoln Street | To permit a minimum setback of 1.2 metres from the rear lot line to a proposed addition. | The proposed addition would not adversely impact the neighbors to the west, as the addition will be the same height as the existing dwelling and there is existing vegetation along the property line, which would provide an appropriate buffer. | <p>Approved with the condition:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Owner obtain a building permit for the proposed addition, or this decision shall become null and void. |

| APPLICATION | RELIEF REQUESTED/ BY-LAW REQUIREMENTS | STAFF COMMENT | DECISION |
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| A29/15 2318226 Ontario Ltd. 425 Kingston Road West | To permit a minimum two-way drive aisle width of 3.2 metres with no adjacent parking. | Given the sites physical constraints and the minimal traffic volume that will be generated by the redevelopment of the subject lands, the reduction of the minimum two-way drive aisle width for two-way directional vehicular traffic that is not adjacent to parking spaces from 7.0 metres to 3.2 metres is appropriate. | Approved with conditions: 1. That the applicant obtain approval of Site Plan Application SP17/10 and enter into a site plan agreement with the Town, or this decision shall become null and void; 2. That the applicant obtain a building permit for the proposed development, or this decision shall become null and void; and 3. That the variance only applies to the two-way aisle located in the front yard and east interior side yard as illustrated in Figure 2 (Proposed Site Plan) of this report, or this decision shall become null and void. |
| A30/15 Jayantha and Shirani Vithana 61 Welsh Street | To permit a minimum south interior side yard setback of 0.9 metres. | The covered steps would not negatively impact the property to the south, as the setback would apply only to the concrete foundation which would not be visible from the adjacent property as there is an existing privacy fence. Reducing the interior side yard setback from 1.2 metres to 0.9 metres would not impact the function of the interior side yard, as sufficient space is available to access the rear yard. | Approved with conditions: 1. That the Owner obtains a building permit for the proposed second storey addition, or this decision shall become null and void; and 2. That the variance only apply to the covered steps generally illustrated in Figure 2 (Submitted Plan) of this report, or this decision shall become null and void. |
| A31/15 – Application Withdrawn | | | |
| A32/15 N/E Corner Salem Road & Harper Hill Drive Stafford Homes | To permit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To permit a minimum setback from a platform to a rear lot line of 3.0 metres for Part 18 on 40R-28962; | The requested variance is considered technical as the 3.5 metre lot frontages for these Parts were always proposed and was not accounted for when the site specific development standards were implemented through Zoning By-law | Approved with the condition: 1. That the applicant obtain a building permit from the Town of Ajax for the applicable Parts on 40R-28962, or |

| APPLICATION | RELIEF REQUESTED/ BY-LAW REQUIREMENTS | STAFF COMMENT | DECISION |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To permit a minimum lot frontage of 3.5 metres for Parts 68, 69, 71, 74, 76, 77, 80, 81, 84 and 88 on 40R-28962; To permit a minimum lot depth of 21.5 metres for Part 92 on 40R-28962; To permit a minimum setback from front lot line of 2.6 metres from Dolphin Lane for Parts 67, 70, and 72 on 40R-28962; and To permit a maximum setback from front lot line of 6.5 metres for Part 66 on 40R-28962. | Amendment application Z3/14. Part 92 is slightly impacted by the curvature of Graywardine Lane as it begins to bend west to meet Salem Road North. The proposed 2.6 metre minimum setback from Dolphin Lane for Parts 67, 70 and 72 would be deemed appropriate and desirable as the dwellings units will still maintain a strong building presence along the public street. | this decision shall become null and void. |
| A33/15 Gord Snellings 3014 Ebony Street | To permit a minimum setback of 6.42 metres from the front lot line and a maximum lot coverage of 38.4% or 179.2 m ² in order to accommodate a proposed single detached dwelling. | The reduction of the front yard setback from 7.62 metres to 6.4 metres (a 1.2 metre reduction) would maintain a sufficient front yard setback and would be in keeping with the adjacent dwellings along this segment of Ebony Street, and similar variances have been approved within the immediate neighborhood. | <p>Application approved by the Committee with conditions.</p> <p>Appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board.</p> |
| A34/15 Medallion Developments (Bayly Square) Ltd. 65 Bayly Street West | To permit a minimum parking rate of 0.85 spaces per unit (484 spaces) for exclusive use of occupants and a minimum of 180 parking spaces for residential visitor, office, shopping centre, and place of assembly uses. | <p>The intent and purpose of the Official Plan and Zoning By-law with regard to parking is to ensure that an adequate supply of parking exists to service development, and to support approaches which optimize the use of parking facilities while adhering to transit and active transportation supportive land use planning and design principles. In this case, parking spaces will be assigned by the management group and clauses will be included in lease agreements that will state residents cannot request additional parking from the Town of Ajax.</p> <p>Peak demand for office and the shopping centre would occur during the day, whereas peak demand for residential visitor parking would occur overnight and therefore would not conflict. Peak parking demand for the</p> | <p>Application approved by the Committee with conditions.</p> <p>Appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board.</p> |

| APPLICATION | RELIEF REQUESTED/ BY-LAW REQUIREMENTS | STAFF COMMENT | DECISION |
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| | | square is anticipated to occur in the evening. Shared parking is common practice for mixed use development in growth centres and is a parking management strategy that allows parking spaces to be shared by more than one type of user, thus allowing parking facilities to be used more efficiently. | |
| A35/15 Cambridge International Academy 126-142 Commercial Ave. | To permit a non-commercial school (private). | The addition of a school of this nature would contribute to the Town's desire to have a mix of uses within the Downtown. The only difference between the Cambridge International Academy and a commercial school is that the academy is a provincially approved institution. | Approved with conditions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the non-commercial school only be permitted to operate from 126-130 Commercial Avenue; and 2. That the Owner obtains a building permit for the proposed interior alterations, or this decision shall become null and void. |



TOWN OF AJAX REPORT

REPORT TO: General Government Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Tracey Vaughan-Barrett
Director, Recreation & Culture

PREPARED BY: Debbie Nickerson
Manager of Administration

SUBJECT: Facility Booking Contract Signatures

WARD(S): All

DATE OF MEETING: February 8, 2016

REFERENCE: Facility Rental Contract signatures

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Facility Booking and Customer Service Representatives be authorized to execute facility booking rental contracts with digital signatures when required.

BACKGROUND:

Facility Booking rental contracts for in-person customers are signed by Facility Booking and Customer Service Representatives; however, when the same contracts are concluded by e-mail, the digital signature of the Director of Recreation & Culture is currently used.

DISCUSSION:

As a matter of administrative efficiency and consistency, staff are requesting that Council now delegate authority to execute these contracts to the Facility Booking and Customer Service Representatives regardless of whether the contract is being completed in person or digitally by e-mail.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

n/a

COMMUNICATION ISSUES:

This matter has been reviewed and supported by the Town Solicitor.

CONCLUSION:

The recommended action is standard practice in surrounding municipalities and will provide consistency for administration and customer service purposes.

Debbie Nickerson, Manager of Administration

Tracey Vaughan-Barrett, Director of Recreation & Culture



REPORT TO: General Government Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Tracey Vaughan-Barrett
Director, Recreation & Culture

Dave Meredith
Director, Operations & Environmental Services

PREPARED BY: Debbie Nickerson
Manager of Administration, Recreation & Culture

SUBJECT: **Facility Usage – 2012-2015**

WARD(S): All

DATE OF MEETING: February 8, 2016

REFERENCE: Community Action Plan
Recreation, Parks & Culture Master Plan
Diversity and Community Engagement Plan
General Government Committee: Facility Usage Report 2008 - 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report entitled Facility Usage 2012-2015 dated February 8, 2016 be received for information.

BACKGROUND:

Research has shown that recreation and parks improve physical and mental health, reduce health care costs, provide positive lifestyle choices for youth at risk, and contribute to independent living among older adults. Community facilities play an important role in fostering a strong sense of community, ensuring residents have access to healthy activities and opportunities for broader social engagement. The provision of space for residents and community groups to access various sporting activities, general recreational programs, and special events remains a key priority and function of the Recreation & Culture and Operations & Environmental Services Departments. In the context of this report, "Community Facilities" are defined as indoor and outdoor sport facilities and indoor spaces such as meeting rooms, community rooms and gymnasiums.

In Ajax, we have a wide range of community facilities available to residents. The population growth we have experienced in Ajax over the past few years has translated into an increased

pressure on the demand for services and facilities, as well as the provision of adequate spaces to accommodate growth.

Demands have centered on the need for more available space for community gatherings, and the opportunity to host larger functions to meet the emerging needs of our community. This is especially important for our ethno-cultural groups, as they place a premium on large gatherings designed to bring communities together in celebration. It is important to note that with the addition of the Audley Recreation Centre, there has been no decline in facility rentals or programs at the McLean Community Centre.

Through our various consultations with residents and local community groups, community facilities are viewed as vital and access to large event / gathering spaces ranked within the top three priorities in both surveys and community round table conversations. Our spaces are designed with the principal purpose of providing a service and facility to our local community. Such uses may include, but not be limited to: arts and culture, sports and recreation, community engagement and development, and public and private celebrations.

There continues to be a clear shift in the parks and recreation field moving away from stand alone to multi-use facilities with a trend to provide opportunities to include partners in those facilities, such as libraries and local community services. Community facilities are also contributing more to tourism and economic development, and beginning to serve more as focal points for community events. The lower tier municipal environment is also changing, and recreation and culture departments are increasingly being called on by local residents and community organizations to be an integral part of addressing a myriad of social issues.

In Ajax, as with many other communities, staff are working more closely on internal integrated service teams, and with community organizations in responding to local needs. The areas of recreation, culture and community development are becoming more widely recognized as a tool for social change, as its potential for improving the quality of life for local residents is significant. These changes in our business have had demonstrated impacts on the way that our community facilities are being used, and should guide the design of any future facilities. We need to ensure that our spaces are built to accommodate growth, are flexible in design to respond to changing trends, and can meet the needs of a diverse group of community stakeholders.

The Town's Recreation, Parks & Culture Master Plan was approved in 2008 and guides the provision, upgrades, conversions and construction of indoor and outdoor facilities through to 2021. This information, combined with ongoing feedback we receive from residents and community groups, and our facility usage statistics is considered in all of our decision making processes.

The Recreation & Culture department maintains the statistics for the usage of our sport fields, community rooms, and rinks in order to allocate the necessary resources to manage these community based assets and anticipate future facility needs. This analysis is completed based on what is considered in the industry to be prime time usage. Non-prime also remains a consideration as time supply, yet not measured as an industry standard benchmark exercise.

The following are season lengths and defined prime time as negotiated with our groups and that are standard business practice, within the industry:

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Ice | 28 weeks – Weeknights Weekends | September to April 5:30 pm – 11:30 pm 7:00 am – 11:00 pm |
| Sport Fields | 20 weeks - Weeknights Weeknights Weekends | May to mid-September 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm non-lit 6:00 pm – 11:00 pm lit 9:00 am – 6 pm non-lit and to 11 pm lit |
| Gymnasiums | 28 weeks - Weeknights Weekends | September to April 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm 8:00 am – 10:00 pm |
| Community Rooms | Entire year Weeknights Weekends | 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm 9:00 am – 6:00 pm (small – mid) 9:00 am – 12:00am (large & Pavilions) |

The Town's allocation policies maximize the utilization of facilities in a consistent and transparent manner while being responsive to community need, with the largest allocation of time being safeguarded for youth. It is also our intent to ensure that community sport continues to thrive in Ajax, to this end, minor sport groups have been well accommodated by these policies and by the provision of indoor and outdoor facilities.

DISCUSSION:

Current inventory of Town permitted facilities:

- 16 ball diamonds – (4 Hardball, 12 Softball)
- 37 soccer pitches - 15 Senior, 4 Junior, 18 Mini / Micro
- 2 artificial turf Senior pitches
- 5 ice surfaces (4 at the Ajax Community Centre - ACC, 1 at the Village Arena)
- 6 gymnasiums
 - Community Schools – Lakeside, Denis O'Connor, Lincoln Alexander and Westney Heights
 - Community Centres – McLean Community Centre –MCC, Audley Recreation Centre - ARC
- 9 small to medium meeting rooms (20 – 60 people)
- 3 larger community rooms (Commodore, HMS, MCC 120 – 300 people)

-
- 3 Pavilions – Rotary Park, Carruthers Marsh, Greenwood (40 – 60 people)
 - Kinsmen Heritage (2016) and Doric Masonic Hall (2017)

Current trends are as follows:

Baseball

Baseball registration is stable with growth occurring on weeknights since last reported in 2012. The existing infrastructure has the capacity to accommodate additional activity on weekends.

Unsold prime hours represent early weeknights (7 pm) and Friday evenings.

Weeknight diamond usage is as follows:

High demand diamonds:

- Audley Ball Fields – 65 % Softball, 75% Hardball
- Cedar Park complex – 65%
- Hermitage – 65%
- Millers Creek – 45%

Low demand diamonds:

- Forest Ridge, Betty Bujold – 20%

Other diamonds:

- Roland Michener, Lord Elgin – 15%

Diamonds not used by any groups are Lakeside, Applecroft, Exeter, St. Patricks and Westney.

Available time exists on weekends and staff are working with our sports community to attract business for this available time. Staff review usage patterns and requests to address infrastructure needs, to make informed decisions on where we need to convert fields.

These decisions are not made in isolation, conversations occur on an ongoing basis with our sport field user groups to determine the best use of sport fields from a usage perspective.

In 2014, the Town completed the construction of two high quality hardball diamonds at the Audley Ball Fields, the quality and quantity of baseball diamonds is sufficient for our user groups, and there is capacity within the current field allocation.

Soccer

The current usage of soccer pitches has increased since last reported in 2012. There are fluctuations of use amongst Senior and Junior pitches, and the desire for Practice pitches.

The overall average weekday usage is:

- Senior – 60%
- Junior – 50%
- Practice – 30%

The preference for senior pitches, remains strong during weeknight hours, yet facility time remains available for use.

It is important to note that during the week, high use senior pitches at the Ajax Community Centre show an average usage of 70 – 85% and Senior pitches in local neighbourhoods, such as Millers, Lakeside, Miles and Imagination show average usage of 50 – 60%. Other fields such as Kinsmen, Guinness, Meadows and Applecroft have more time available.

The overall average weekend usage is 16% and there is available time to book.

Ajax Soccer Club has expressed a need for two junior pitches.

The history of additions to the existing infrastructure are:

- In 2015 a junior pitch (Castlefield) was added to the inventory (was a replacement for Heritage House) and weeknight use was immediately filled, yet weekend time still exists.
- In 2015, two artificial senior turf pitches were developed as a legacy project of the Pan Am Games. Staff will monitor our first full season in 2016 and this will provide us with a clearer understanding of the need usage patterns for these fields.

The data demonstrates that there is available time in our soccer facilities, particularly on weekends.

Gymnasiums

The usage of gymnasiums has increased since last reported in 2012. Weeknight and weekend usage has increased from 67% to 80%, and are booked with Town delivered, community or private functions.

Overall usage is:

- McLean Community Centre – 90%
- Audley Recreation Centre – 75%
- Lakeside School – 80%
- Lincoln Alexander – 80%
- Westney Public School – 60%
- Denis O'Connor School – not currently booked

An industry trend is placing greater demands on drop-in opportunities in recreation and cultural facilities. We are seeing this locally with our drop in, introductory and community delivered programs such as Basketball, Badminton, Pickleball, Tennis, Karate and Sport ball are very popular. Our current inventory is meeting community need and staff continue to monitor usage and emerging trends for planning purposes.

Arenas

Ice registration has remained stable and facilities are well used. The requirement of ice by our user groups are being met. Weekday usage has remained consistent at 95% and weekend usage at 98%. Unsold prime hours are early weekend mornings (7 am) and late weeknight evening (11 pm). Our Community Sport Organizations are reviewing the introduction of sport development such as Provincial and National programs to introduce Ice Sports (i.e. Grow the Game, The First Shift, New to Hockey, Learn to Skate, Skate For Life, Skate to Win) and to expand community programming (ie. Public skates and Hockey leagues).

Meeting Rooms and Community Spaces

Meeting and community room usage has increased since last reported, when it was 55 – 65%.

Overall Usage in the following categories is:

- Medium rooms (20 – 60 people) – 60 – 65%
- Large rooms (120 – 320 people) – 75 – 95%, specifically, ACC Commodores, MCC Banquet Hall, ACC - HMS and all Pavilions (40 – 60 people).

Both MCC and ARC show the highest usage with, 80% usage in the Banquet Hall and Community Room.

Another industry trend on the rise is programs that are aimed at rehabilitation and wellness that can be offered through partnerships with the health sector. These programs increase in popularity when they are offered in community, rather than clinical settings, enhancing health outcomes for the participants. We have seen evidence of this with our local Cardiac Rehab partnership program with the Rouge Valley Ajax & Pickering Hospital. These types of programs are dependent on the provision of meeting rooms and flexible exercise space and need to be considered within our room allocations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

COMMUNICATION ISSUES:

It is the Town's ongoing commitment to Excellence in Service Delivery and Governance that a highly valued, constructive and collaborative working relationship with our user groups continue and assist with the development of facility inventory and long range capital plans.

Recreation & Culture and Operation & Environmental Services staff meet regularly with community organizations to allocate facility time, gather registration numbers, discuss trends, changes and patterns within activities and sport, and identify and assign their annual facility requirements.

This report will be shared with all community groups in an effort to share our findings as well as encourage scheduling and programming that optimizes the use of available time.

CONCLUSION:

Community recreational facilities offer tremendous benefit for local neighborhoods and the greater community. The Facility Usage Report remains an important tool to capture trends, patterns, needs and capacity to assist staff to monitor and plan for current and future facility needs. The space requirements of our community users have been met to the best of our ability with the inventory that we currently have available, and overall, use has been stable for the past four years, with periods of slight growth or change to activities occurring.

The Recreation, Parks and Culture Master Plan has been a significant resource to staff as a guide for future capital projects. Staff will continue to review the ongoing trends to determine capacity in our facilities in order to achieve optimal use.

ATT-1 Facility Usage Charts

Debbie Nickerson, Manager of Administration

Tracey Vaughan-Barrett, Director, Recreation & Culture

Dave Meredith, Director, Operations & Environmental Services

BASEBALL DIAMONDS**Inventory: 16 Diamonds (4 hardball, 12 softball)**

| | Available Hours | | Booked Hours | | % Usage |
|-------------|-----------------|--|--------------|---------|-----------|
| 2012 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 5970 | | 3600 | | 60 |
| Weekend | 7230 | | 2030 | | 28 |
| 2013 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 5970 | | 3800 | | 63 |
| Weekend | 7230 | | 2200 | | 30 |
| 2014 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 5970 | | 3000* | *Pan Am | 50 |
| Weekend | 7230 | | 1300 | | 18 |
| 2015 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 5970 | | 2500* | *Pan Am | 41 |
| Weekend | 7230 | | 1200 | | 17 |

SOCCKER PITCHES

Overall usage percentages, specific use of areas are detailed in report

Inventory:

37 Pitches (Senior – 15, Junior – 4, Mini / Micro – 18)

2 Artificial Senior Turf Pitches – full year 2016

| | Available | | Booked | | % Usage |
|-------------|-----------|--|--------|---|-----------|
| 2012 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 8000* | | 4100 | *change in supply =removal of Sportplex fields, Kinsmen 1 field, | 51 |
| Weekend | 10000 | | 1600 | Betty Bujold conversion | 16 |
| 2013 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 8000 | | 3970 | | 50 |
| Weekend | 10000 | | 1625 | | 16 |
| 2014 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 8000* | | 4050 | *Heritage field off, Castlefield in - neutral | 51 |
| Weekend | 10000 | | 1595 | | 16 |
| 2015 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 7050* | | 3300 | *Monarch South & Centennial convert to turf removed hours from supply and booked | 47 |
| Weekend | 9300 | | 1450 | | 16 |

GYMNASIUMS

Overall usage percentages, specific use of areas are detailed in report

Inventory: 6 = 2 Community Centres, 4 Community schools (7 – 8000 square feet)

Denis O'Connor is not currently booked (as per agreement); Supply includes ARC gymnasium added

ARC full year 2014, Pan Am impacts 2015

| | Available | | Booked | | % of use |
|-------------|-----------|--|--------|--------|----------|
| 2012 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 2380 | | 1900 | | 80 |
| Weekend | 2240 | | 1350 | | 60 |
| 2013 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 2380 | | 1900 | | 80 |
| Weekend | 2240 | | 1400 | | 62 |
| 2014 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 2380 | | 1980 | | 83 |
| Weekend | 2240 | | 1500 | | 67 |
| 2015 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 2380 | | 1800* | *PanAm | 75 |
| Weekend | 2240 | | 1600 | | 71 |

ICE SURFACES

Overall usage percentages, specific use of areas are detailed in report

Inventory: 5 Pads (1 international 100 x 200, 4 standard 85 x 190 – ACC = 4, Village = 1)

| | Available | | Booked | | % |
|-------------|-----------|--|--------|--|-----------|
| 2012 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 3810 | | 3620 | | 95 |
| Weekend | 4760 | | 4500 | | 94 |
| 2013 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 3810 | | 3600 | | 95 |
| Weekend | 4760 | | 4490 | | 95 |
| 2014 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 3810 | | 3650 | | 96 |
| Weekend | 4760 | | 4610 | | 97 |
| 2015 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 3810 | | 3700 | | 97 |
| Weekend | 4760 | | 4640 | | 98 |

MEETING/ MULTI PURPOSE ROOMS

Overall usage percentages, specific use of areas are detailed in report

Inventory: 14 Facility spaces, small, medium, large (addition of ARC rooms, removal of Village and St. Andrews)**Small = ACC Duffins, ACC Captains, ACC Carruthers, MCC-1, ARC Studio****Usage = 40 – 45 %****Medium = ACC Admirals, MCC-3,****Usage = 60 – 65 %****Larger = 3 Pavilions, ARC Community, ACC Commodores & HMS, MCC banquet****Usage = 75 – 95%**

| | Available | | Booked | | % of use |
|-------------|-----------|--|--------|--------|-----------|
| 2012 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 13800 | | 4800 | | 34 |
| Weekend | 14500 | | 7000 | | 48 |
| 2013 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 13800 | | 4980 | | 36 |
| Weekend | 14500 | | 7890 | | 55 |
| 2014 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 13800 | | 5000 | | 36 |
| Weekend | 14500 | | 10000 | | 69 |
| 2015 | | | | | |
| Weekday | 13800 | | 4500* | *PanAm | 30 |
| Weekend | 14500 | | 9500* | *PanAm | 65 |

TOWN OF AJAX REPORT



REPORT TO: General Government Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Tracey Vaughan-Barrett
Director, Recreation & Culture

PREPARED BY: Cayla S. Da Silva
Community Development Coordinator

SUBJECT: 2015 IMPACT Ajax Fund

WARD(S): All

DATE OF MEETING: February 8, 2016

REFERENCE: Strong Neighbourhood Strategy – Neighbourhood Capacity Building
Diversity and Community Engagement Plan
Community Safety Strategy
General Government Committee Report, “2013 Social Infrastructure Fund”
General Government Committee Report, “2014 Social Infrastructure Fund”

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive the report entitled “2015 IMPACT Ajax Fund” dated February 8, 2016 for information.

BACKGROUND:

As per the report, in 2013, the Social Infrastructure Funds were to be used to purchase services from agencies where existing relationships and/or partnerships already existed, and project proposals were to be received for consideration through a transparent method of distributing funds. Projects/initiatives which addressed community priorities were to be given consideration, with these priority areas defined as: child and youth engagement and development; neighbourhood development and capacity building; and the engagement of the communities of interest as defined by the Town’s Diversity and Community Engagement Plan. With Council’s approval of the Strong Neighbourhood Strategy in June 2013, the decision was made to allocate a portion of the Social Infrastructure Funds to neighbourhood-based activities/events.

In 2015, with the program’s rebranding to the IMPACT Ajax Fund, there was a significant increase in the number of applications, funded activities, and interest from the community to engage with the Town. In 2015, ten (10) community organizations and ten (10) neighbourhood events received funding, impacting approximately 2,500 Ajax residents.

The IMPACT Ajax Fund is currently undergoing a review process and a report on the updated program will come to GGC in Fall, 2016. As the program is under review, 2015 will be a transition year with the intake of applications operating as it did in 2015.

DISCUSSION:

The 2015 IMPACT Ajax Fund provided community organizations and neighbourhoods with an opportunity to create impactful programs, services, and events that would otherwise not have been accomplished due to financial constraints. The Fund has become a novel community development approach that has incubated progressive, innovative, and sustainable solutions by community organizations and neighbourhoods. As such, it has again been recognized as a best practice and we have been asked to share our model with our municipal partners. Through the development and implementation of these projects/initiatives and activities/events, the Town has been able to build capacity within its not-for-profit sector and within our neighbourhoods. The IMPACT Ajax Fund investments have cultivated collaboration amongst community organizations and neighbours, have begun to identify, address, and bridge current gaps in programs/services, and provide the Town with tools that foster sustainable project legacies.

The following information provides a summary of the projects that were funded in 2015.

| |
|---|
| Community Organizations Funded: Ten (10) |
|---|

Direct Funding (Cash + Portable Washrooms + Handwash Stations): \$41,376.94

Fee Waiver (Facility/Park Rental + Picnic Tables): \$2,381.14

Community Organizations Summary:

Organization: Ajax Municipal Housing Corporation

Name of Project: Community BBQ's

Direct Funding: \$743.74

Summary of Project: Hosted two (2) free community BBQ's within two of the municipal housing residences. These BBQ's aimed to create a space for residents to meet and socialize with each other, and was particularly focused on creating relationships amongst those in the seniors-based locations as well as neighbouring homes who joined to partake in the social activity.

Organization: Boys & Girls Club of Durham

Name of Project: Team Challenge Days

Direct Funding: \$3,640

Summary of Project: Working with the participants of the Ajax-based programs, youth were able to participate in fun and friendly social networking experiences as a way to develop team building skills and to meet and work with youth from across the municipality. Program sites had the opportunity to both plan and host a contest day as well as visit other schools to take part in their creative, inclusive contests.

Organization: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ajax-Pickering

Name of Project: Hoops n Homework

Direct Funding: \$12,500

Summary of Project: Community-based program that provided marginalized and diverse youth from Ajax, the opportunity to participate in free after-school activities that focused on academic, athletic, and life skills development.

Organization: City Gates Church

Name of Project: Step Out Ajax

Direct Funding: \$6333.93

Fee Waiver Facility/Park/Picnic Tables: \$790.10

Summary of Project: One-day event that took place at two Ajax locations (North and South venues) that celebrated and promoted the Town by bringing micro-communities together to create connections. The event created a space for neighbours, local businesses, and organizations to meet each other and network to create a more informed, unified Ajax.

Organization: Durham Folklore Storytellers

Name of Project: Canadian Storytelling Night – Soiree nationale du conte

Direct Funding: \$700

Fee Waiver Facility/Park: \$795.52

Summary of Project: Two free, inclusive concerts that focused on Canadian-based, educational stories that celebrated not only the country's, but also Ajax's historical stories, legends and folktales. Storytelling was used as a mechanism to promote the arts, culture, literacy, neighbourhoods, public participation, and celebrate the heritage of the municipality by sharing with both Ajax-based elementary school classes and the broader Ajax public.

Organization: EcoHealth Resource & Wellness Centre

Name of Project: Lift

Direct Funding: \$1,576.26

Summary of Project: Two nutritional workshops, aimed at impacting seniors from diverse communities by providing nutritional information, lessons on food preparation, and education on the importance of physical health.

Organization: The Youth Centre

Name of Project: Rise Up: Stories and Songs with Kate Reid

Direct Funding: \$4,745.49

Fee Waiver Facility/Park: \$569.56

Summary of Project: Single event that included educational components and a music concert, hosted by Kate Reid, singer/song writer and LGBTQ advocate. Training for Durham Regional Police Service officers was also included, as well as a workshop for LGBTQ youth and allies.

Organization: PFLAG Canada Durham Region

Name of Project: Building Compassion for LGBTQ Seniors

Direct Funding: \$4,000

Summary of Project: Provided three educational seminars to staff members from various senior's serving locations. Seminars focused on increasing awareness of LGBTQ-related content and issues.

Organization: Pride Durham

Name of Project: Widening Our Horizons

Direct Funding: \$4,745.49

Summary of Project: Single event aimed to bring awareness and education of the LGBTQ communities to Ajax by hosting a "Deceiving Divas" performance that was open to the public as a way to engage and participate in the annual Pride activities.

Organization: Optimist Club of Ajax

Name of Project: Kids' Safety Village of Durham Region

Direct Funding: \$2,615.55

Summary of Project: Increased accessibility options for children participating at the Safety Village, by acquiring a special trike. A new kitchen unit was also obtained to expand the Fire Prevention programs and provide children with the opportunity to learn more about safety through a life-sized version of a kitchen.

| |
|--|
| Neighbourhoods Funded: Ten (10) |
|--|

Direct Funding (Cash + Portable Washrooms + Handwash Stations): \$15,258.31

Fee Waivers (Facility/Park Rental + Picnic Tables): \$4,929.71

The neighbourhoods that received funding in 2015 were Applecroft, Audley North, Lakeside, Midtown, and Nottingham. Neighbourhood gatherings included an assortment of activities including meet and greets, community BBQ's and picnics, arts and crafts and dance days, talent shows, historical information and resource sharing events, Neighbourhood Watch training and celebrations, entertainment, recreation and sport try-its, and children's games, to name a few.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The IMPACT Ajax Fund allocation for 2015 was \$63,100, of which, \$56,635.25 Direct Funding and \$7,310.85 Fee Waiver was utilized to support the aforementioned organizations and neighbourhoods. These community organizations and neighbourhoods also received assistance through Recreation & Culture as well as Operations & Environmental Services in terms of fee waivers for facility/park rentals and picnic tables, and received additional assistance with garbage/recycling receptacles, sun shelters, and other items by request. In an effort to ensure equitable access to materials for the outdoor, event-based projects, materials were purchased (e.g., branded sun shelters), and to provide a further reach across the community to encourage more applications, marketing and promotional materials were purchased. Combined, these costs totaled \$5,241.78 of the fund.

The proposed IMPACT Ajax Fund allocation for 2016 is \$64,100.

COMMUNICATION ISSUES:

Recreation & Culture staff continue to work with Corporate Communications on the promotional campaign for 2016 to encourage more residents and community organizations serving Ajax to submit applications for funding.

Tactics of the campaign include, but are not limited to:

- Testimonial video of previously funded community organizations and neighbourhoods
- In-person and online information sessions
- Online resources to assist in neighbourhood planning
- Promotion and dissemination of information to Advisory Committees, community partners, and recreational/social/sports/arts/cultural groups and clubs whose programs and services benefit Ajax residents
- Dissemination of information through community festivals and events
- Social media

The IMPACT Ajax Fund launches on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 and closes on Friday, March 18, 2016.

CONCLUSION:

The 2015 IMPACT Ajax Fund was incredibly successful as it provided a significant advancement in the field of community development within Ajax. The fund solidified the Town's position to dedicate substantial resources to progressive and proactive activities that support all residents and cultivated a process of equitable, collaborative, needs-based allocation of support. This fund will continue to support the ongoing development and enrichment of our not-for-profit sector and the empowerment of our Ajax neighbourhoods. The Town will consider all applications that focus on the development and delivery of innovative, sustainable, and essential opportunities for our residents to become educated and engaged on an extensive collection of community-based initiatives that are designed to enhance the quality of life for all of our residents.

Cayla S. Da Silva, Community Development Coordinator

Tracey Vaughan-Barrett, Director of Recreation & Culture

**TOWN OF AJAX
REPORT**



REPORT TO: General Government Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Dave Meredith, Director
Operations and Environmental Service

PREPARED BY: Jade Schofield, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator
Environmental Services

SUBJECT: Electric Vehicle Chargers Ontario (EVCO) Program Application

WARD(S): All

DATE OF MEETING: February 8th 2016

REFERENCE: ICSP, 2013

RECOMMENDATION:
That the Report titled 'Electric Vehicle Chargers Ontario (EVCO) Program Applications' be received for information.

BACKGROUND:

In 2014, there were approximately 6,000 EV's in Canada. This number grew to 14,500 by June 2015, with Quebec currently hosting the largest number of electric vehicles.

Canadians currently have access to purchase between 8-10 models of electric cars with a price tag starting at \$27,000. Currently the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) offers rebates of up to \$8,500 towards the purchase of an EV vehicle.

There are two types of electric vehicles (EV) readily available for purchase in Canada:

- Battery electric vehicle (BEV) runs entirely on a battery and electric drive train, which must be plugged into an external source of electricity to recharge its battery.
- Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) runs on a battery and electric drive train but also has the support of an internal combustion engine that may be used to recharge the vehicle's battery and/or to replace the electric drive train when the battery is low and more power is required.

Studies have shown that one of the largest barriers for people making the switch to EV's, is the availability of charging infrastructure. In order to encourage community members to purchase, and local car manufacturers to stock EV's, infrastructure for charging needs to be more readily available.

DISCUSSION:

On December 21st 2015, the MTO released a fund for \$20 million for the installation of EV Chargers across the province. The Program is a one-time competitive application-based grant program designed to cover the purchase and installation cost of public EV chargers along major inter-city transportation corridors and in urban centres (including workplaces, apartments & condominiums).

There are two types of EV chargers that can be requested under the grant:

- **Level 3 Chargers** designed for rapid charging (30min-1 hour). These chargers should be installed within 1 km of a provincial highway with units located every 60-80 km along major provincial highways (i.e. along the 401 corridor from Windsor to Cornwall).
- **Level 2 Chargers** designed for a slower charge (6-8 hours). This type of charger is suitable for in-city travel and the grant outlines specifics, that potential locations must be located close to major trip attractors (retail hospitality, recreation workplace, condominiums and multi-unit dwellings).

The Town of Ajax has submitted an application for the installation of four Level 2 Chargers at the following locations:

- Ajax Town Hall
- McLean Community Centre
- Operations Centre
- Audley Recreation Centre

In addition, the Town of Ajax has submitted a letter of recommendation to organization Plug N Drive and US based EV software company ChargePoint who are submitting province wide applications for the installation of Level 3 (rapid charge) charging stations on private property.

Within each site, the EV Charger's must be installed in a location where four parking spaces have access to the unit, however the unit only charges one car at a time.

Costs

If successful, the grant for Level 2 chargers will cover up to 100% of the capital costs including: site design, site preparation, purchase and installation of the EV charger, and all necessary permits to install the equipment (valued at approximately \$30,000 per site).

The MTO will not cover operating costs of the unit, but will allow grant recipients the opportunity to charge a nominal fee (\$5-\$10 per charge) to cover the costs of energy consumption. The Town would be eligible to directly receive 90% of the charge (10% is taken for transaction processing fees). There will also be an additional operating cost of \$1,690 (1,200 USD) per unit, per year for the software service of the units. This service includes:

- Ability to charge via credit/debit card
- Web mapping
- Financial reports (as per MTO requirements) showing:
 - Cumulative number of vehicles charged
 - Date and time of each usage
 - Total kWh draw for each usage
 - Total kWh draw over a time period

-
- Total cost of each charge event in \$CAD
 - Total revenue during the previous 6 month period.

In addition to operating costs the Town would also be responsible for the replacement costs of any malfunctioning/damaged equipment. The replacement of a Level 2 EV charger unit is estimated at \$11,400.

Benefits

There are a number of benefits for Ajax through the installation of EV chargers:

- Create awareness of the availability of EV's and charging infrastructure on the market,
- Provide access to charging stations who cannot charge at home (condos & apartments).
- Provide EV owners (both residents & visitors) the security, that chargers are available across Ajax,
- Encourage users to spend time within the community (economic, tourism benefits),
- Encourage EV owners to use municipal facilities,
- Allow Town facilities to be EV ready for fleet vehicles.

Grant Timelines

- The deadline for application is February 12th 2016
- Recipients announced Feb/March 2016
- Agreements with the MTO will be finalized March 2016
- Installation must be completed by March 2017
- Projects that receive funds are expected to be operational for at least five years.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

If the grant is successful the Town of Ajax will need to consider the addition of \$6,800 in the operating budget for the service software to allow the operation of four EV chargers.

COMMUNICATION ISSUES:

If the grant is successful the Town of Ajax will need to install the provincial EV charging signage as described within the MTO program guidelines at each EV charging location site.

At the time of installation a communications plan would also be required to help create awareness of the availability of EV chargers within Ajax.

CONCLUSION:

That the Report titled 'Electric Vehicle Chargers Ontario (EVCO) Program Applications' be received for information.

Dave Meredith, Director
Operations and Environmental Service

Jade Schofield, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator
Operations & Environmental Services

TOWN OF AJAX REPORT



REPORT TO: General Government Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Dave Meredith
Director, Operations and Environmental Services

PREPARED BY: Mujtaba Khawaja
Infrastructure & Asset Management Technologist

SUBJECT: **Final Report on Over-Expenditure**
2014 Local Road Resurfacing - Capital Account No: 954811
2014 Local Road Resurfacing - FGT - Capital Account No: 954911

WARD(S): All

DATE OF MEETING: February 8, 2016

REFERENCE: Capital Account No. 954811 – Local Road Resurfacing - 2014
Capital Account No. 954911 – Local Road Resurfacing - FGT - 2014
Tender No. T14009

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the report on the net over-expenditure of \$138,524.68 (net of HST rebate) on Local Road Resurfacing, Capital Account No. 954811, previously awarded to Furfari Paving Co. Inc, be received for information.
2. That the report on the net over-expenditure of \$107,952.79 (net of HST rebate) on Local Road Resurfacing, Capital Account No. 954911, previously awarded to Furfari Paving Co. Inc, be received for information.
3. That Council approve funding of \$23,273.81 to be allocated to Capital Account No. 954911 from Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund.

BACKGROUND:

Under the Capital Expenditure Control Policy, staff are required to report when project expenditures have exceeded the approved spending limit.

DISCUSSION:

During the course of completing the 2014 Local Road Resurfacing project, it was found that the base course of asphalt was in poor condition partially as a result of previous water service replacements on Clements Road, Frazer Road, and Latham Court. The poor base asphalt condition on Clements Road, Frazer Road, Latham Court, and Graham Court meant it was necessary to remove the full depth of the existing asphalt base on these roads.

Ontario Boulevard required additional asphalt work to correct deficient cross-fall.

Financial Implications:

Capital Account No: 954811

| Vendor | Award Date | Approved Spending Limit | Actual Expenditures | Over Expenditure |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Furfari Paving Co. Inc. | March 6, 2014 | \$542,310.68 | \$680,835.36 | (\$138,524.68) |

Available Budget - GGC Report March 6, 2014 \$214,029.65

Over-Expenditures:

Furfari Paving Co. Inc. \$138,524.68
 Other Fees \$ (20,740.26) \$117,784.42

Under Budget \$ 96,245.22

The approved Capital Budget is sufficient to fund the additional expenditures identified above.

Capital Account No: 954911

| Vendor | Award Date | Approved Spending Limit | Actual Expenditures | Over Expenditure |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Furfari Paving Co. Inc. | March 6, 2014 | \$622,823.30 | \$730,776.09 | (\$107,952.79) |

Under Budget - GGC Report March 6, 2014 \$ 83,176.70

Over-Expenditures:

Furfari Paving Co. Inc. \$107,952.79
 Other Fees \$ (1,502.28) \$106,450.51

Over Budget (\$23,273.81)

Additional funding in the amount of \$23,273.81 will be allocated from Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund.

CONCLUSION:

The original approved spending limits for Local Road Resurfacing Capital Account Numbers 954811 and 954911 have been exceeded and this report has been prepared in accordance with the Capital Expenditure Control Policy.

Mujtaba Khawaja – Infrastructure & Asset Management Technologist

Dave Meredith – Director of Operations and Environmental Services

TOWN OF AJAX REPORT



REPORT TO: General Government Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Martin de Rond
Director of Legislative & Information Services / Town Clerk

PREPARED BY: Derek Hannan
Manager, By-law Services

SUBJECT: **Animal Licensing Fee Increase**

WARD(S): All

DATE OF MEETING: February 8, 2016

REFERENCE:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Dog and Cat Amending By-law regarding the increase of licensing fees be approved.

BACKGROUND:

A comprehensive update to the Dog and Cat By-law will be presented to Council in the spring of 2016. The By-law currently states that all dogs and cats must be licensed and sets fees of \$20.00 for an altered (sterilized) dog or cat and \$35.00 for an unaltered (non-sterilized) dog or cat. The By-law also offers a \$5.00 discount for any dog or cat that has a microchip identifier.

However, with the Town's new animal licensing partnership with DocuPet Inc. is scheduled to go live in late February / early March, it is practical to update the various licensing fees now rather than waiting for the comprehensive By-law update.

DISCUSSION:

To promote the practice of responsible pet ownership, the license fees for unaltered dogs and cats were increased in 2009. The cost of an altered dog and cat license has been unchanged since 2004. Staff are recommending that each of these fees now be increased by \$5.00, to \$25.00 for an altered and \$40.00 for an unaltered dog or cat.

These new Ajax fees will be comparable to neighbouring municipalities:

- Ajax \$25/\$40, Pickering \$20/\$50, Whitby \$20/\$50, Oshawa \$25/\$50, Clarington \$25/\$40, and Toronto \$25/60.

The \$5.00 discount will still apply for any dog or cat that has a microchip.

The money received for pet licensing provides the Town with valuable services, such as:

- 24 hour emergency service all year round;
- Feeding, sheltering, and safe keeping of impounded animals;
- Supporting the rescue of lost and/or homeless animals;
- Supporting medical care for sick or injured dogs or cats;
- Supporting medical care for sick or injured wildlife; and
- Public education initiatives in schools and within the community.

Pet licensing is an important revenue source that offsets some of the costs of providing these services that benefit the pet owners, the general public and the animals themselves.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Based on the annual sale of 3,500 pet licenses, the new fees will generate an additional \$17,000 in revenue to assist with the annual costs of the animal services program.

COMMUNICATION ISSUES:

N/A

CONCLUSION:

The increase for the dog and cat license fees is acceptable and necessary to help offset the increasing costs of Animal Services.

Derek Hannan – Manager, By-law Services

Martin de Rond – Director of Legislative & Information Services / Town Clerk

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AJAX

BY-LAW NUMBER XX-2016

Being a By-law to amend By-law #127-2009, a By-law to licence, regulate and prohibit certain animals or classes thereof within the limits of the Town of Ajax, or defined areas therein.

WHEREAS the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended ("*Municipal Act*") provides the Town with broad authority to pass By-laws within various "spheres of jurisdiction", including a By-law respecting animal matters;

AND WHEREAS the "*Municipal Act*" confers the power upon a municipality to pass a By-law to provide for the seizure and impounding of animals being at large or trespassing and the sale of impounded animals under certain conditions;

AND WHEREAS the "*Municipal Act*" requires Council or a Committee of Council or an Animal Services Officer of the municipality to hold a hearing on whether to exempt an owner in whole or in part from muzzling requirements of a dog, when so requested by the dog owner;

AND WHEREAS the *Dog Owners' Liability Act.*, R.S.O. 1990, c. D.16, as amended ("*D.O.L.A*") provides for controls on pit bulls and other dog breeds as defined in the Act;

AND WHEREAS the *Pounds Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.17, as amended ("*Pounds Act*") authorizes a municipality to impound animals found running at large.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AJAX HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

- 1.1 That By-law #127-2009, as amended, be further amended by deleting Section 3.4 and replacing it with:
 - 3.4 Every owner of a dog or cat shall, at the time of registering the animal, pay a registration fee to the Town in accordance with the following schedule of fees:
 - (a) an annual registration fee in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for an altered animal; or
 - (b) an annual registration fee in the amount of forty dollars (\$40.00) for an unaltered animal.

READ a first and second time this
Sixteenth day of February, 2016.

READ a third time and passed this
Sixteenth day of February, 2016.

Mayor

Clerk

TOWN OF AJAX REPORT



REPORT TO: General Government Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Allore, MCIP, RPP
Director, Planning and Development Services

PREPARED BY: Geoff Romanowski, MCIP, RPP, CPT
Development Approvals Coordinator

SUBJECT: **LeMine Investment Group:
Site Plan/Sales Pavilion Update &
Project Marketing and Development Name**

WARD: 3

DATE OF MEETING: February 8, 2016

REFERENCES: June 25, 2015 General Government Committee
October 8, 2015 General Government Committee
November 19, 2015 General Government Committee
Site Plan Application SP2/14
Site Plan Amendment Application SPA3/14

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the report to General Government Committee entitled 'LeMine Investment Group: Site Plan/Sales Pavilion Update & Project Marketing and Development Name', dated February 8, 2016 be received for information.

1.0 BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this report is to provide a status update on the overall development of the condominium project and sales pavilion and outline LeMine's change of the Grand Harwood Place name previously proposed by Windcorp to 'Central Park Ajax'.

2.0 DISCUSSION:

2.1 Site Plan and Sales Pavilion Status Update

2.1.1 Site Plan Status

The amended Development Agreement and Agreement of Purchase and Sale between LeMine and the Town of Ajax stipulated that the site plan agreement shall be entered into no later than December 31, 2015.

Site Plan Application SP2/14 was granted final site plan approval on December 18, 2015. This included the execution of a site plan agreement, the approval of all drawings and reports, and submission of all required securities, deposits, and cash payments.

2.1.2 Upcoming Milestones Related to the Amended Development Agreement

i) Purchaser Conditions

Within the amended Development Agreement the next milestone is July 15th, 2016, which is the Purchasers condition date by which LeMine needs to sign-off on the economic feasibility of the development of the Phase 1A Lands.

Economic feasibility is to be evaluated by LeMine based on a number of factors including, without limitation, a minimum sales target of 85%, the cost of construction, financial return/profit, the cost and availability of financing, and activity on adjacent properties within the Lands. LeMine can waive this condition at any time leading up to July 15th, 2016. If this condition is not satisfied by July 15th, 2016 the agreement with LeMine is terminated. However, LeMine has indicated that this condition will be met by the agreed upon date.

Upon satisfying the condition of economic feasibility, LeMine will have 12 months to commence construction of the project.

ii) Completion of the Sales Pavilion & Marketing Strategy

The construction of the sales pavilion began on November 18th, 2015, ahead of the Development Agreement deadline of January 2nd, 2016.

The roof membrane is being completed, which includes the roughing-in and mounting of all roof-top mechanical equipment. Window installation and façade treatment is to follow. This will fully enclose the building and enable interior finishing work to commence.

Another component that will be constructed in the coming weeks is the 6.0 metre (20 ft.) high vision wall, outside of the sales pavilion. This wall will be located along the south and west edges of the building. The sales pavilion should be completed by mid April 2016.

LeMine's marketing strategy over the coming months is as follows:

Table 1: - Marketing Strategy Outline

| Timeline | Description of Strategy |
|--------------------------|--|
| January 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of branding, marketing and promotional materials |
| February 8, 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Ajax General Government Committee meeting to present brand/promotion plans |
| February 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch of 'Coming Soon' and Announcement promotions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cineplex Video Promotion Digital/Social/Website Launch Print – Local/GTA/International Outdoor – Billboards/Banners |
| February 18, 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LeMine to attend Ajax Pickering Board of Trade Annual Mayors' Breakfast |

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| March 21, 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>LeMine to attend Annual Economic Development Update and Business Reception</i> |
| April 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>LeMine's Corporate Annual Gala – Corporate unveiling of 'Central Park Ajax'</i> |
| April 6, 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ajax Business Network Event - Presentation to invited Ajax Businesses, Ajax Staff and Council</i> |
| April 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Special (Private Invite Only) Council Preview of Sales Pavilion</i> |
| April 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Opening of Sales Pavilion – Exclusive/Invitation Sales Only</i> |
| May 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Official Grand Opening of Sales Pavilion to the Public</i> |
| June 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Status Update presentation to Council – Economic Feasibility Update</i> |

By following this outline, LeMine will meet all of their obligations as per the amended development agreement, as it relates to the Sale Pavilion and put them in a position to achieve economic feasibility obligations under the Agreement by July 15, 2016 deadline.

2.2 Proposed Name Change

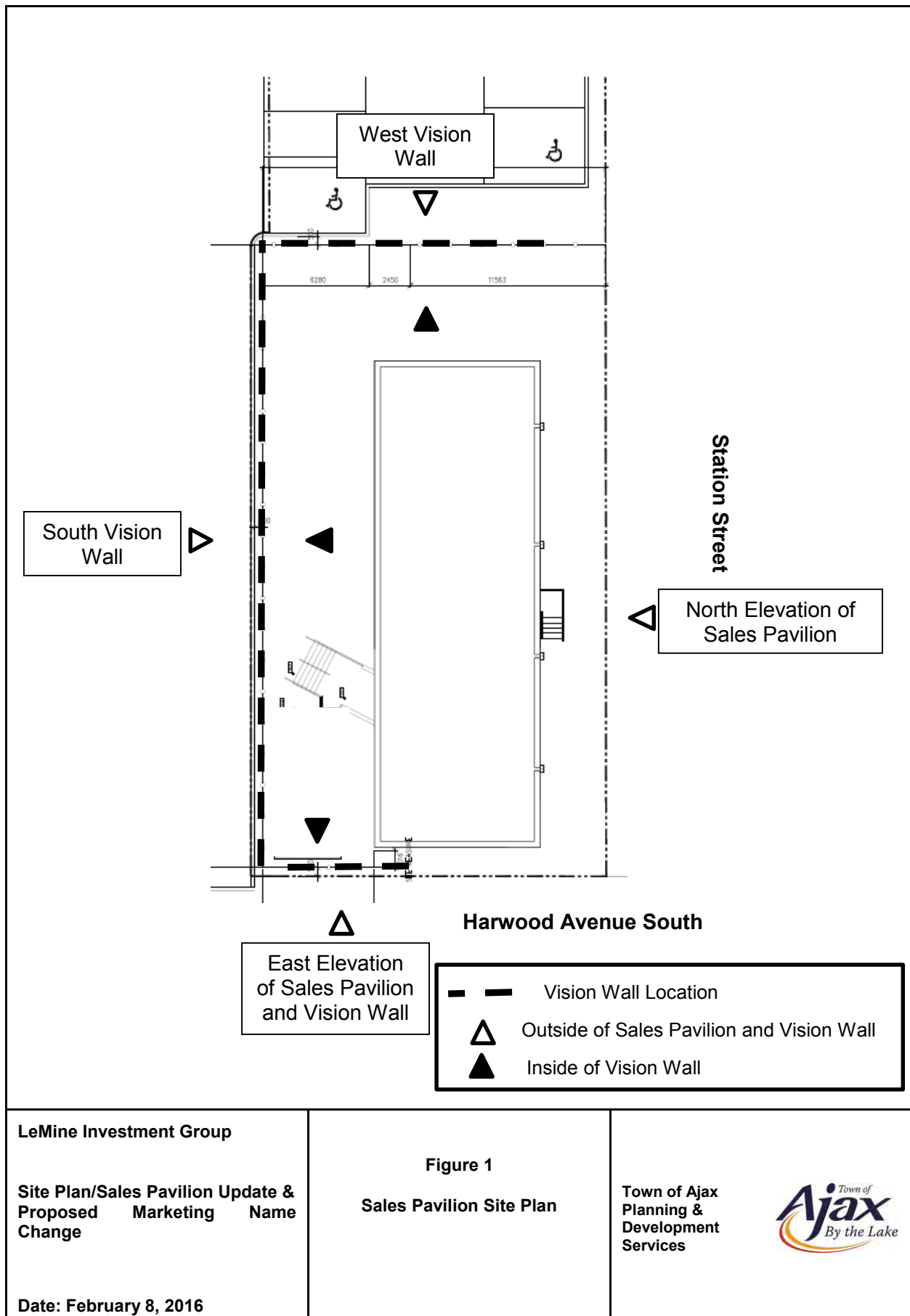
As per the attached letter (ATT-1 – Project Marketing and Development Name), LeMine is changing the name of the development from 'Grand Harwood Place' to 'Central Park Ajax'.

The name 'Central Park Ajax' has been "strategically branded as a name that will resonate with buyers and bring life and vibrancy to the Ajax Plaza area." The name 'Central Park Ajax' is in reference to the central location of the site, its connections to open spaces, and Ajax's unique waterfront attributes.

'Central Park' is a name that is commonly used in North American and international cities and is synonymous with areas that provide park spaces, shopping areas, hotels, community facilities and entertainment facilities.

The name 'Central Park Ajax' would only apply to the Phase 1A Lands, but LeMine also plans to incorporate aspects of Ajax's history into future phases of the development.

LeMine considers the name change to be an integral part of the marketing of the project and staff supports LeMine in its marketing efforts.

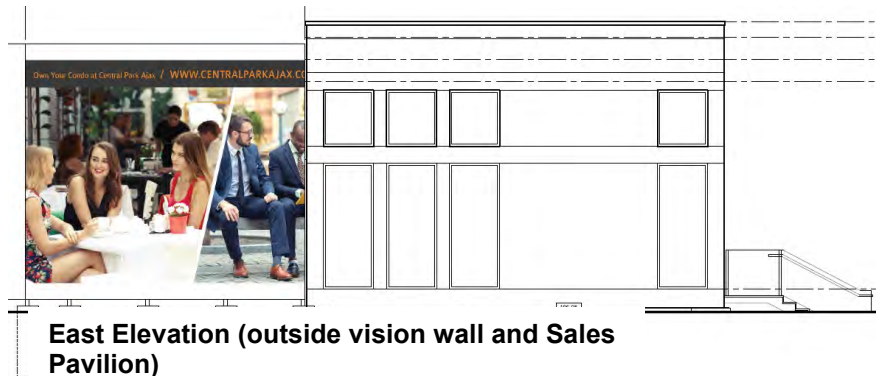




South Elevation (outside of vision wall)



North Elevation (Sales Pavilion)



East Elevation (outside vision wall and Sales Pavilion)



West Elevation (outside of vision wall)

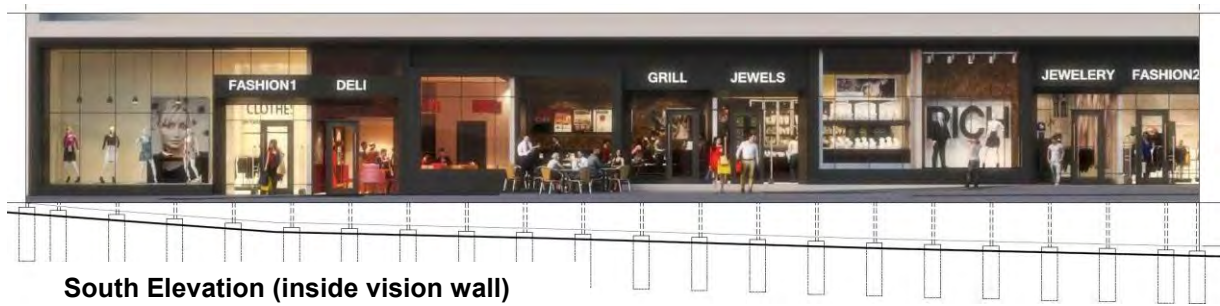
LeMine Investment Group

Site Plan/Sales Pavilion Update &
Proposed Marketing Name
Change

Date: February 8, 2016

Figure 2

Outside Sales Pavilion and
Vision Wall ElevationsTown of Ajax
Planning &
Development
Services



LeMine Investment Group

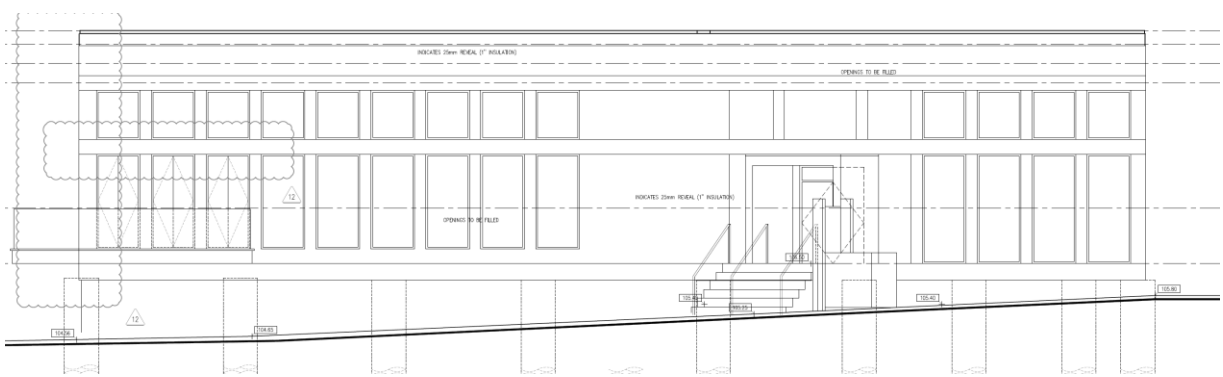
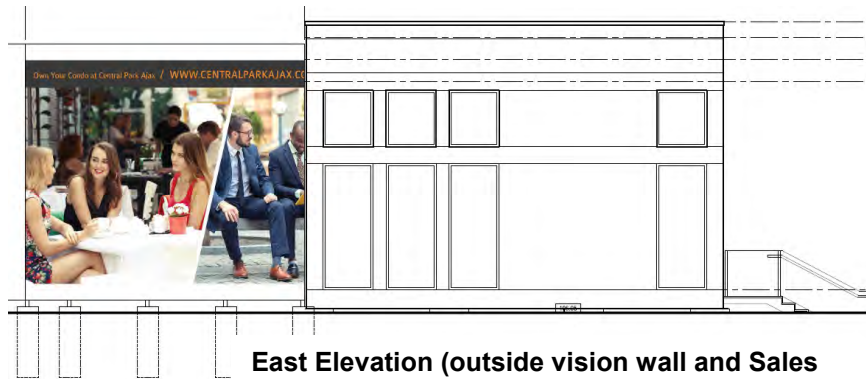
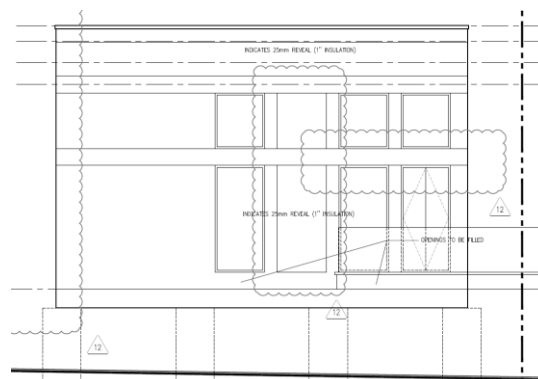
Site Plan/Sales Pavilion Update &
Proposed Marketing Name
Change

Date: February 8, 2016

Figure 3

Inside Vision Wall Depictions

Town of Ajax
Planning &
Development
Services

**South Elevation (Sales Pavilion)****East Elevation (outside vision wall and Sales Pavilion)****West Elevation (Sales Pavilion)****LeMine Investment Group****Site Plan/Sales Pavilion Update &
Proposed Marketing Name
Change****Date: February 8, 2016****Figure 4****Sales Pavilion Elevations****Town of Ajax
Planning &
Development
Services**

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications as a result of endorsing the recommendations of this report.

4.0 CONCLUSION:

LeMine has achieved site plan approval for the condominium development and is diligently engaged in the construction of the sales pavilion, with an anticipated opening date of early to mid-April 2016, which is in keeping with the various agreements that have been entered into between the Town and LeMine. Staff have no concerns with the name change and continue to support LeMine in their marketing efforts to achieve a successful outcome.

ATT-1 – Project Marketing and Development Name

Geoff Romanowski, MCIP, RPP, CPT
Development Approvals Coordinator

Gary Muller, MCIP, RPP
Manager of Planning

Paul Allore, MCIP, RPP
Director, Planning and Development Services

January 26, 2016

Paul Allore
Director of Planning
Town of Ajax
65 Harwood Avenue South
Ajax, Ontario
L1S 2H9

Dear Mr. Allore,

Re: Project Marketing and Development Name – Central Park Ajax

We are pleased to provide details on the marketing strategy designed to bring the Lemine project to the market. The project has been strategically branded '*Central Park Ajax*.' We feel the new name will resonate with buyers and bring life and vibrancy to the Ajax Plaza area.

Ajax is one of the fastest growing communities in Ontario, and is a central node that uniquely connects Durham Region and the City of Toronto. The *Central Park Ajax* theme establishes a 'destination' desired for the Downtown, as identified through the Town's Downtown Vision and planning policies, Community Action Plan, and the Town's Economic Development & Tourism Strategy. The destination will emerge to become a thriving urban neighbourhood that includes a business centre, a commercial centre, and a lifestyle centre, surrounded by connections to nature and the environment.



WEBSITE: WWW.CENTRALPARKAJAX.COM

Central Park Ajax is the convergence of forward-thinking, progressive urban design, and the coveted Ajax lifestyle that includes parkland, Lake Ontario Waterfront, the Ontario Greenbelt ribbon that borders much of Ajax's urban areas, creek valley lands, and a trail system that connects it all. *Central Park Ajax* embraces Ajax's natural history through sustainable building elements, and two roof-top parks. With greenspace, shopping, businesses, transit, cycling, cafes and entertainment, Ajax is *THE* park in the Greater Toronto Area and Central Park Ajax is at its heart. Future components of the development will reflect aspects of Ajax's history, complementing the theme of Ajax Town Hall.

The *Central Park Ajax* brand strongly projects the Ajax lifestyle. The brand will attract investment and bring focus to a place that embraces the Town's vision for an exciting infusion of energy. *Central Park Ajax* will attract the next generation of leaders and families that want to be connected to a high quality lifestyle that is uniquely Ajax. I have attached a outline of the *Central Park Ajax* promotion strategy that provides a high level overview of our plan to bring this exciting development to market.

Lemine is extremely proud to offer *Central Park Ajax* to the Greater Toronto Area and beyond. We look forward to promoting Ajax to the world, while continuing partnerships with the Town in its ongoing growth and economic prosperity.

Sincerely,



Thomas Liu
President & CEO

Marketing Strategy Outline

| Timeline | Action Type | Description |
|------------------|-------------|--|
| Winter 2015/2016 | Development | Branding strategy, marketing materials concept development and promotion video. |
| Feb 8, 2016 | Process | Presentation to Ajax Council on brand and promotion plan. |
| Feb 2016 | Promotion | Publicity and promotion launch. |
| Feb 2016 | Promotion | Launch of 'Coming Soon' and Announcement promotions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cineplex video promotion - Digital/Social/Website launch - Print-local/GTA/International - Outdoor – billboard/banners |
| Feb 18, 2016 | Event | Annual Mayors' Breakfast, Sponsored by the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade. Lemine officials to attend the breakfast. Mayor Parish to highlight the Lemine in his address. |
| March 21, 2016 | Event | Presentation to Council on marketing materials and strategy as part of the Annual Economic Development Update and Business Reception with Council. |
| April 2016 | Event | Lemine's Corporate Annual Gala where the Central Park Ajax will be celebrated with Lemine staff and partners. |
| April 6, 2016 | Event | Presentation (repeat) of the Council presentation on marketing materials and strategy as part of the April Ajax Business Network Event. *Medium event – 60-80 businesses plus Ajax staff and Council (invited). |
| April 2016 | Event | Special Council Preview of Sales Pavilion (pre-opening). *Small Event exclusive to Council, invited Ajax Staff and Lemine partners. |
| April 2016 | Event | Opening of Sales Pavilion – Commencement of Exclusive Initial Sales - by invitation only. |

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|---|
| Ongoing | Promotion | Ongoing promotion of Central Park Ajax |
| May 2016 | Event | Official Grand Opening of Sales Pavilion to be coordinated with Ajax Staff. Official sales launch to the public. |
| June 2016 | Process | Status update presentation to Ajax Council – Sales to date, market response, event report, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note that this report may also satisfy the Economic Feasibility condition. (If applicable by this time.) |

TOWN OF AJAX REPORT



REPORT TO: General Government Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Allore, Director of Planning & Development Services

PREPARED BY: Lisa Hausz, Manager, Business Development & Marketing

SUBJECT: Ajax Pilot Street Banner Program

WARD(S): ALL

DATE OF MEETING: February 8, 2016

REFERENCE:

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council endorse the Ajax Pilot Street Banner Program and draft policy identified in the report entitled Ajax Pilot Street Banner Program, dated February 8, 2016.
2. That the report entitled Ajax Pilot Street Banner Program dated February 8, 2016 be received for information.

BACKGROUND:

The Town of Ajax Street Banner Program is being piloted as part of a legacy asset resulting from the Town of Ajax hosting Pan Am games in 2015. The intent of the pilot program is to provide an initial framework to provide creative and aesthetically appealing promotion options for the Town, community groups and businesses. The objectives of the pilot program include:

- To create and test an effective administrative process to manage a high quality municipal banner program.
- To assist in the promotion of cultural, recreational, and civic events sponsored by various groups throughout the town, united to improve the quality of life and offerings for Ajax residents and visitors.
- To support and promote special events, bringing increased attention and awareness to the Town of Ajax and its businesses, creating an image of an economically vibrant, active and flourishing town.
- To complement the aesthetic appearance and/or improvement of the Town's business districts and major corridors.
- To introduce colour and a sense of excitement to various travel routes throughout the Town of Ajax.

DISCUSSION:

As part of being a designated host municipality for the 2015 Pan Am Games, the Town implemented an extensive and strategic beautification initiative in support of the Games. This program included the installation of 366 banners and related banner support hardware (brackets) on town-owned poles. The banners were designed and approved by TO2015, and provided an immediate impact throughout the Town.

As part of the legacy of the investment in the brackets, a pilot street banner program will be launched in 2016, with a draft policy to provide context and facilitate decisions. Attached as ATTCH-1 is the Draft PILOT– Ajax Street Banner Program Policy.

Scope:

This draft policy shall apply to any street banners installed on municipal property and right-of-ways within the Town of Ajax, Ontario as part of the Pilot Ajax Street Banner Program.

This pilot program offers 200 poles along five specific routes/streets (# of banners):

- Ajax Business Area – Salem Road from Highway 2 north to Rossland Road (25)
- Downtown Core – Harwood Avenue from Highway 401 to Bayly Street (45)
- Hospital Corridor – Harwood Avenue from Bayly Street to Clements (40)
- Pickering Village Business Improvement Area (BIA) – Highway 2 from Westney Road to Elizabeth; and Old Kingston Road from Church Street to Elizabeth. (45)
- Commerce Corridor - Highway 2 from Westney Road to Salem Road (45)

Timing:

It is intended that the pilot street banner program would commence early in 2016 and run through December 2016. A report detailing the 2016 findings and recommendations for an ongoing street banner program will be brought forward in early 2017 for Council direction.

Process:

The process is detailed in the attached draft policy, and was developed through a review of municipal best practices, and designed to be similar to the Town's existing property rental/use processes such as: Film Permit and Facility Booking. The pilot program results will assist in refining the policy and process for an ongoing program, if deemed feasible.

Interest:

To date, interest for use of the poles, in accordance with the draft policy, has been communicated by both private and non-profit entities. Eligibility criteria is outlined in Section 5 of the Draft PILOT– Ajax Street Banner Program Policy. It is anticipated that the Downtown Core, Hospital Corridor, Pickering Village BIA, and Commerce Corridor will be contracted in 2016 as part of the pilot phase.

Management:

The pilot program will be facilitated and managed internally through the Economic Development Office. Following a review of the pilot program, details and recommendations for an ongoing program will be provided.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Direct costs: none; all costs associated with banners, installation, removal are the responsibility of the permit holder.

Indirect costs: internal staff time to facilitate and report on the pilot program.

Direct revenue: none during the pilot phase; pole rental fees will be implemented as part of an approved ongoing program, if deemed feasible.

Indirect revenue: none during the pilot phase; potential to off-set marketing costs of future Town banners if partnered with organizations in accordance with the policy.

Cost considerations for applicants/permit holders:

Security deposit – to be held in accordance with the policy. The security deposit will be in the amount of \$20 per pole or \$500, whichever is greater. The security deposit is eligible for refund, and the use of the security deposit, if applicable, is outlined in Section 4 and Section 6 of the policy.

Insurance – the permit holder is required to have a certificate of liability insurance in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 per occurrence naming the Town as additional insured. Such insurance shall not be cancellable except on prior notice to the Town. A copy of the insurance certificate shall be delivered to the Town prior to 21 days prior to the start date set out in the Permit.

Banners – cost to design, supply, install and remove are the sole responsibility of the permit holder.

Poles – rental fees per pole are not applicable during the pilot phase. A rental fee structure will be brought forward as part of the pilot program and policy recommendations, and pole rental fees will be implemented as part of an approved ongoing program, if deemed feasible.

COMMUNICATION ISSUES:

The launch of the pilot program will be communicated in consultation with Corporate Communications.

CONCLUSION:

The Town has an opportunity to pilot a Street Banner program that utilizes assets resulting from the 2015 Pan Am Games. The pilot program incorporates the use of 200 poles on specific streets throughout Ajax. The intent of the pilot program is to provide a starting framework to publically offer the program on an ongoing basis in efforts to provide creative and aesthetically appealing promotion options for the Town, community groups and businesses. The pilot program will run in 2016 with results and recommendations presented to Council in early 2017.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATT-1: Draft PILOT– Ajax Street Banner Program Policy

Lisa Hausz, Manager, Business Development & Marketing

Paul Allore, Director of Planning & Development Services

PILOT - Town of Ajax Street Banner Program Policy



1. POLICY OBJECTIVE

- 1.1. The Town of Ajax Street Banner Program is being piloted as part of a legacy asset resulting from the Town of Ajax hosting Pan Am games in 2015. Implementation of this street banner program provides creative and aesthetically appealing promotion options for the Town, community groups and businesses.
 - 1.1.1. To support and promote special events, bringing increased attention and awareness to the Town of Ajax and its businesses, creating an image of an economically vibrant, active and flourishing town.
 - 1.1.2. To assist in the promotion of cultural, recreational, and civic events sponsored by various groups throughout the town, united to improve the quality of life and offerings for Ajax residents and visitors.
 - 1.1.3. To complement the aesthetic appearance and/or improvement of the Town's business districts and major corridors.
 - 1.1.4. To introduce colour and a sense of excitement to various travel routes throughout the Town of Ajax.
 - 1.1.5. To create and pilot an effective administrative process to manage a high quality municipal banner program.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This policy shall apply to street banners installed on municipal property and right-of-ways within the Town of Ajax, Ontario as part of the Pilot Street Banner Program.
- 2.2. This pilot program offers poles along five specific routes/streets (# of poles):
 - 2.2.1. Ajax Business Area – Salem Road from Highway 2 north to Rossland (25)
 - 2.2.2. Downtown Core – Harwood Avenue from Highway 401 to Bayly (45)
 - 2.2.3. Hospital Corridor – Harwood Avenue from Bayly to Clements (40)
 - 2.2.4. Pickering Village Business Improvement Area (BIA) – Highway 2 from Westney to Elizabeth; and Old Kingston Road from Church Street to Elizabeth. (45)
 - 2.2.5. Commerce Corridor - Highway 2 from Westney to Salem (45)

3. RESPONSIBILITY

- 3.1. Administration of this policy shall be the responsibility of the Economic Development & Tourism Manager. Banner design and content approvals should be undertaken jointly by the Economic Development office, with written sign off by Corporate Communications. Installation scheduling will be the responsibility of Economic Development & Tourism as per scheduling guidelines referenced in this policy.

- 3.1.1. Town of Ajax:

- 3.1.1.1. Provides use of banner poles, for fees according to current fee by-law, if applicable.
- 3.1.1.2. Authorizes the Economic Development & Tourism Office to receive, process, approve or decline applications, including the collection of associated fees in accordance with the guidelines provided in this policy.
- 3.1.1.3. Authorizes the Economic Development & Tourism office to approve the installation and removal of banners as per the permit, through the applicant's contracted third-party installation vendor.
- 3.1.2. Sponsoring Organization/Applicant:
 - 3.1.2.1. Follows the banner program criteria established in the Town of Ajax Street Banner Program Policy.
 - 3.1.2.2. Creates their own respective original banner designs in accordance to the Town of Ajax Street Banner Program Policy.
 - 3.1.2.3. Bears cost of banner design, manufacture, and storage, if applicable.
 - 3.1.2.4. Bears the cost of installation and removal of banners in accordance with the Town of Ajax Street Banner Program Policy.
 - 3.1.2.5. Provides the Town with a certificate of liability insurance in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 per occurrence naming the Town of Ajax as additional insured. Such insurance is not cancellable except on prior notice to the Town. A copy of the insurance certificate shall be delivered to the Town prior to 21 days of the start date set out in the permit.

4. PROCEDURE

- 4.1. An applicant wishing to have banners installed must complete a banner application available from the Municipal web site (www.ajax.ca), from Ajax Town Hall, 65 Harwood Avenue South, Ajax, ON, or electronically by contacting Economic Development: priority@ajax.ca.
- 4.2. During and following the pilot, the Street Banner Permit application and Street Banner Rental fees are subject to change based on the results of the pilot and further on an annual basis, and to be approved by Council as part of the Annual Fees By-Law.
- 4.3. A security deposit is required in the amount of \$20.00 per street pole as set out in the permit, or \$500.00 whichever is greater.
 - 4.3.1. Security deposit funds are to be used at the Town's discretion in accordance with, and identified within this policy.
 - 4.3.2. The security deposit is refundable upon written verification of complete removal of banners as set out in the permit; and confirmation that there is no damage to Town property.
- 4.4. The application must be accompanied by the banner design(s) provided either in electronic or hard copy format, accompanied by the applicable application fees. Note: the application permit fees are non-refundable.
 - 4.4.1. Completed applications and application fees are expected to be sent or delivered to the Economic Development & Tourism Office a minimum of six (6) weeks prior to planned installation date.
 - 4.4.1.1. Applications shall include:
 - 4.4.1.1.1. Name of event
 - 4.4.1.1.2. Name of organization
 - 4.4.1.1.3. Date of event
 - 4.4.1.1.4. Time period requested for banner exposure
 - 4.4.1.1.5. Banner design example

- 4.4.1.1.6. Number of street poles requested
- 4.4.1.1.7. Requested route/street
- 4.4.1.1.8. Name of proposed banner installation/removal vendor
- 4.4.1.1.9. Application fee

- 4.5. The Economic Development & Tourism Office will document receipt of application and circulate to internal staff, with final sign off by Corporate Communications.
- 4.6. Internal staff shall provide comments to the Economic Development office in a timely manner.
- 4.7. The Economic Development office will notify the applicant as soon as possible with the decision and next steps.
- 4.8. If the application is granted, the applicant is required to submit the Street Banner Rental fees, other fees as applicable, the required insurance certificate, and any other documentation requested as part of the permit. All to be submitted to the Town prior to 21 days of the start date set out in the permit.
- 4.9. Acceptance of the banner design will be granted by the Economic Development & Tourism Manager in consult with Corporate Communications, based on interpretation of this policy with respect to message content, appropriate use of the program, and target audience.
- 4.10. Upon successful granting of the application, payment of fees and submission of all required documentation and insurance, a permit may be issued.
- 4.11. The Town shall reserve the right to honor recognized events, which are held annually, by reserving banner space as necessary.

5. ELIGIBILITY

- 5.1. Businesses, organizations and not-for-profit events are eligible to apply for banner space for the purpose of promoting charitable, public, or special community events, or for decorative purposes featuring a specific area (i.e. Pickering Village in Ajax, Ajax Waterfront, Downtown Ajax, Salem Business Area, etc.)
- 5.2. Applications are evaluated based on the following priorities:
 - 5.2.1. First priority: Banners produced or sponsored by the Town of Ajax or its agencies that promote the Town of Ajax, its events or key areas.
 - 5.2.2. Second priority: Banners promoting special events or activities held within the Town of Ajax, open to the public, and organized by a community non-profit organization located *within* the town limits.
 - 5.2.3. Third priority: Banners promoting special events or activities held within the Town of Ajax, open to the public, organized by non-profit organizations or government agencies located *outside* of town limits, or for-profit organizations in town limits.
- 5.3. Preference shall be given to applications that reflect the Town's tourism-related objectives:
 - 5.3.1. Promotion of tourism attraction events, areas (i.e. Pickering Village in Ajax, Ajax Waterfront, Downtown Ajax, Business Areas, etc.).
 - 5.3.2. Promotion of major events where the Town of Ajax has participation or representation (i.e. Sport Durham, Regional, Provincial, National, International sporting competitions or events, etc.).
 - 5.3.3. Promotion of Arts and Culture events held in Ajax that draw visitors from outside of Ajax
 - 5.3.4. Promotion of other priority events as determined by Council.
- 5.4. Corporate sponsors may contribute to the purchase and installation/removal of banners on behalf of such groups or events. In such cases, display of company logos may be

permitted/incorporated into design providing the content is incidental to the over-all banner design and the recognition will not exceed 25% of the total area of the banner.

- 5.5. This policy prohibits installation of any banner solely advertising a specific product or service, excluding a business logo in support of one of the priorities listed in this policy.

6. INSTALLATION and REMOVAL

- 6.1. As outlined in 2.2 of this policy, there are five specific routes/streets (and available poles) identified as part of the pilot including:
 - 6.1.1. Ajax Business Area – Salem Road from Highway 2 north to Rossland (25)
 - 6.1.2. Downtown Core – Harwood Avenue from Highway 401 to Bayly (45)
 - 6.1.3. Hospital Corridor – Harwood Avenue from Bayly to Clements (40)
 - 6.1.4. Pickering Village Business Improvement Area (BIA) – Highway 2 from Westney to Elizabeth; and Old Kingston Road from Church Street to Elizabeth. (45)
 - 6.1.5. Commerce Corridor - Highway 2 from Westney to Salem (45)
- 6.2. Banner installation and removal will be conducted by the applicant's vendor at a cost to the applicant.
- 6.3. The Town reserves the right to use the applicant's security deposit to remove any banners that remain if the applicant does not remove within 14 days of the end of the permit term.
- 6.4. The Town reserves the right to use the applicant's security deposit to remove any damaged or deteriorated banners if the applicant fails to do so within 48 hours of notification by the Town.
- 6.5. The Municipality will instruct the permit holder to remove any damaged or prematurely deteriorated banners, at the discretion of the Economic Development & Tourism Manager.
- 6.6. The Economic Development & Tourism Office will maintain a Master Banner Calendar at all times.
- 6.7. The period of January through February of each year will be the official Banner Scheduling period. All street banner applications made within the month will be date stamped and scheduled according to the priorities and objectives listed in paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3.
- 6.8. Applications can be made after the scheduling period, however, they will be processed on a first come first serve basis and granted based on availability and adherence to this policy.
- 6.9. Maximum banner display time during the pilot is one year or removal by November 1, 2016, whichever is greatest, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the Town.

7. BANNER SPECIFICATIONS

- 7.1. All banners must be professionally manufactured by a bonded printer to ensure only quality, well-made banners will be displayed within the Town of Ajax.
- 7.2. All banner designs should be artistic in nature, graphically or symbolically representing the subject/purpose of the community event or organization.
- 7.3. Banners can include text for dates, activities, logos, and/or title of event.
- 7.4. If banners are requested for poles that do not already have support hardware, it will be the responsibility and cost of the applicant for the hardware and for installation. The banner hardware will then remain the property of the Municipality.
- 7.5. Banners shall:
 - 7.5.1. Be made of durable vinyl and be **28** inches wide by **60** inches long with standard pockets reinforced by heavy nylon thread.
 - 7.5.2. Grommets are required on the pole side corners.
 - 7.5.3. Include UV inhibited inks where applicable, to resist fading.

- 7.5.4. Double-sided using bright, contrasting colors on both front and back.
- 7.5.5. Be simple in nature, incorporating large simplistic and bold elements.
- 7.5.6. Incorporate imagery and text that are appropriately scaled for long-range, road-side visibility.
- 7.6. Banners shall NOT:
 - 7.6.1. Be political in nature, nor display any inappropriate symbols or messages or in any way suggest partisan political statements or endorsements.
 - 7.6.2. Display any legend or symbol which may be construed to advertise, promote the sale of, or publicize any merchandise or commodity.
 - 7.6.3. Have displayed thereon which portrays a traffic control device, or which attempts to direct the movement of traffic.
 - 7.6.4. Contain more than 25% of space used to highlight the sponsor of the banner.
 - 7.6.5. Display inappropriate material including but not limited to: offensive language, hate speak, pornographic images, and/or content considered demeaning and derisive.

8. GENERAL PROVISIONS AND TERMS

- 8.1. **Due to the nature and timing constraints of the banner program, decisions on the appropriateness of material will be governed and decided at the sole discretion of the Town. All decisions regarding Street Banner applications are final.**
- 8.2. The applicant agrees that it will indemnify and save harmless the Municipality of the Town of Ajax and its officials, employees, servants and agents from all costs, losses, damages, compensation and expenses of any nature whatsoever suffered or incurred by the Municipality and sustained or caused by the applicant's banners, and from all claims, demands, suits and judgments against the Municipality of the Town of Ajax and its officials, officers, employees, servants and agents.
- 8.3. Applicant agrees and understands that the Town of Ajax Street Banner program is a service offered to meet the objectives stated in paragraph 1 of this policy, and that the program can be discontinued without notice.

TOWN OF AJAX REPORT



REPORT TO: General Government Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Dave Meredith, Director
Operations & Environmental Services

PREPARED BY: Craig Blencowe, Urban Forestry Technician
Jade Schofield, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator
Tim Field, Manager Environmental Services

SUBJECT: **2016 Emerald Ash Borer Update**

WARD(S): All

DATE OF MEETING: February 8th 2016

REFERENCE: **Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan**
Urban Forestry Management Plan
Region of Durham Local Action Plan

ATTACHEMENTS

- A) Street Pruning Map 2012-2016
 - B) Street Tree Removals (2016)
 - C) Street Tree Treatment (2016)
 - D) Woodlot Inventory/ Ash Map
 - E) Woodlot Hazardous Trees (2016)
 - F) 5 Year Restoration Planting Plan
 - G) 5 Year Community Planting Plan
 - H) Leaf Backyard Tree Planting Program and Tree Tenders Ajax 2015 Final Report
-

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive the 2016 Ajax Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan update for information.

BACKGROUND:

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetle is currently the largest threat to Ajax's tree canopy. This non-native insect attacks and kills ash trees (white/green). Ash trees are a popular species planted on the Town property (boulevards /park spaces). It is also commonly found in southern Ontario forests and woodlands. When Ajax's street tree inventory was conducted in 2011, of those trees inventoried, 8 % were of the ash variety.

In 2011, the Town of Ajax developed a pest management strategy to help minimize the impacts of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The main components of the strategy include:

- Ash tree inventory (a GPS inventory of Ash Trees within Ajax)
- Survey methods (a method for monitoring the health of ash trees)
- Management strategies (pruning, treatment, removal and replanting)
- Communication and public education
- Cost analysis (long term budget established to manage the impacts of EAB)

As referenced within the EAB management plan, there is no expectation that EAB can be eradicated or even managed locally. As predicted EAB population levels have increased exponentially, and will likely infest and kill most of the untreated ash trees in the Town.

Ajax staff are utilizing the recommendations within the EAB Management Plan to try and reduce the environmental and aesthetic impacts this pest is having on the Town and its property owners. Staff are overseeing the monitoring, treatment, removal and replacement of trees, including those on streets and in parks and more recently within woodlots.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the infestation of EAB and to highlight the works proposed in 2016 and 2017.

DISCUSSION:

Street & Park Trees

Since the implementation of the Urban Forestry Management Plan in 2011 and the EAB Plan in 2012, a main focus has been on minimizing the impacts to street and park trees through increased management. This is achieved through:

- ***Inspections***

Each year trees undergo a visual inspection to determine the general health of each tree. This includes an evaluation of the trees structure, location, insect damage, disease, deadwood, and potential hazards. By conducting the inspections on a regular basis staff are able to prioritize any work that needs to be conducted, whilst minimizing the impacts on Ajax's resident through the loss/decline of a tree.

- ***Inventory updates***

Ajax staff maintain a GPS tree inventory. Updating this inventory takes place each spring and fall after each planting season. This inventory allows for ongoing monitoring and allows staff to determine the locations and species diversity of Town owned trees. This greatly assists with the day to day management of trees in Ajax. For community members interested in street trees within the Town they are able to access this data through Ajax in the Map located on the Town's website.

- ***Regular Pruning***

Pruning maintains the structure of each tree by removing hazards, ensuring safe clearances from infrastructure, as well as removing poor branch unions and crossers. ATTACHMENT A, shows a map of the streets proposed to undergo pruning in 2016.

- **EAB Treatment**

Since 2012, Ajax staff have been initiating a treatment cycle for Ash trees located in town owned parks and on streets. The treatment consists of injecting an insecticide “Tree-Azin” directly into the ash tree in early summer. This product kills the EAB larvae under the bark of the tree. It is recommended that treated trees receive a dosage of the insecticide every two years if injected into a relatively healthy ash tree. In 2016 & 2017, staff will be looking to move into Cycle 3 of EAB treatment for trees (ATTACHMENT B).

In order for a tree to be treated, it is evaluated for its health, structure and location; if the tree is showing signs of stress or infestation it will no longer be a candidate for treatment. Staff have noticed that the decline of ash trees has happened faster than first predicted. This is as a result of the infestation spreading faster, and a number of trees still showing signs of infestation even after treatment. In addition to these factors, the 2013 ice storm resulted in a significant amount of structural damage to a number of ash trees making them unsuitable for treatment.

| Treatment Cycle | Year | No. of Trees Treated |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Cycle 1 | 2012 | 115 |
| | 2013 | 822 |
| Cycle 2 | 2014 | 299 |
| | 2015 (ATTACHMENT C) | 450* |
| Cycle 3 | 2016 (proposed) | 100* |
| | 2017 (proposed) | 450 |

- **Tree removals**

Since the infestation of the EAB a number of trees have declined and have had to be removed. In 2012 the street tree inventory showed that 8% of all the trees located on streets and in parks are ash, today it is approximately 4%.

| Year | Trees Removed |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2013/ 2014 | 736 (in house & contracted services) |
| 2015 | 723 (in house & contracted services) |
| 2016 | 382 (contracted services only) |

Since 2012, it is estimated that Ajax has spent \$2 million on the treatment and removal of EAB infested trees. It is important to note that any tree removed is replaced or relocated depending on planting site suitability. Ajax staff are following the recommendations outlined in the 2011 urban forestry management plan to replace trees utilizing native species where possible, and planting a variety of species on streets to help prevent the visual impact that this type of infestation causes on single species planted streets.

Woodlots

In order to continue the implementation of the EAB Management Plan, in 2015, a woodlot inventory was completed. This consisted of a survey to be undertaken to identify ash trees located on Town owned woodlots. This work in conjunction with the street/park inventory enables staff to establish and record all ash trees located on Town owned land.

24 town owned woodlots underwent the inventory (ATTACHMENT D). These areas were selected depending on the density of forest cover, concentration of ash trees, proximity to trails and private property.

The outcomes of the woodlot inventory has allowed staff to identify trees most impacted by EAB. Trees in greatest decline require removal as they pose an immediate safety hazard. Staff intend to begin the removals of the most hazardous trees in February/March 2016. Locations are highlighted in the Woodlot Removals Map (ATTACHMENT E). This work is being conducted by an external contractor. Due to the infestation of EAB being present across Ajax, and the majority of tree showing signs of stress, staff do not intend to treat ash trees within woodlots, except for specimen trees in exceptional condition.

Residents will be notified of any tree removals taking place within woodlots. A list of locations will be highlighted on the Town's website, the placement of signs on the perimeter of the woodlot as well as a letter being sent to residents living in close proximity. There is the potential for some temporary trail closures to ensure safety of users. Closures at each location will last no longer than one day.

Proposed future woodlot work

In order to minimize the safety risks of declining trees in woodlots, ongoing monitoring of high priority areas will need to take place every year, with the likelihood of removals to follow.

It is recommended through the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan to secure funds to continue an inventory of the location identified. This will encompass all tree species growing on Town owned lands (not just ash). This would allow for proactive management, should another infestation in Ajax's urban forest occur.

Replanting and Educations Programs

In order to maintain the goals of increasing Ajax's 18.5 % canopy cover (2009 UFORE Study), a number of initiatives are in place to increase tree planting across the Town including:

- ***Restoration Plantings***

Each year restoration plantings are initiated to replace trees that were removed as a result of development and construction activities. These plantings take place in areas that benefit most from re-naturalization as well as from an aesthetic and environmental perspective. Over the past three years the funds for these plantings have seen the restorations of the Millers Creek. In 2015 as part of the Urban Forest Management Plan update a five year plan was approved by council (Attachment F).

- ***Community plantings***

Ajax staff have increased the number of community planting events hosted each year to three events. This has been made possible due to the increase of funding opportunities made available by external organizations and the number of willing volunteers within the community supporting these events. Community planting events see between 600-1200 trees planted by community members.

In 2015, the Town also received financial support for community tree planting from Sierra Club Canada, Forests Ontario, Honda Canada, and Metro East Anglers. In 2015 approximately 2,400 trees were planted on Town property through these community planting events. In order to continue working with these external organizations Town staff developed a five year community planting plan (Attachment G).

- ***Planting Subsidies for Private Property***

Trees provide a number of community benefits regardless as to whether they are planted on private or public property. Some of these benefits include, greenhouse gas absorption, air contaminant removal, increased rainwater absorption and mental health benefits.

The Town is working with a number of partners to help support property owners looking to increase the number of trees on their property in Ajax.

In 2015, the Town entered into an agreement with Leader's in the Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) who brought their subsidized Backyard Tree planting Program to Ajax. This program allows homeowners to purchase a tree and planting service in their backyard at the supplementary rate of \$150-220. This program is also offered to residents of the City of Toronto, City of Mississauga and York Region. The program to date has been very successful with 19 trees and 31 shrubs planted in Ajax in 2015, and 8 trees and 2 shrubs sold for spring 2016. The annual report from LEAF is shown in ATTACHMENT H.

- ***Forest Ontario 5 Million Durham/ 50 Million Ontario***

In addition to the Backyard Planting Program the Town is also actively promoting the Five Million Trees Durham program which was initiated through the Region of Durham Climate Mitigation Plan. This program promotes planting on public and private land through subsidized planting funds in connection with the battery recycling collection operated by RMC. Ajax staff are currently in the process of installing battery collection containers in major municipal facilities to support this program.

In addition to Five Million Trees Durham, Forests Ontario also leads the 50 million trees Ontario program; this program offers significant subsidies for larger property owners (1 hectare or greater) looking to reforest lands. The Town actively promotes this program at events, and on the Town's Website.

- ***Educational workshops***

In order to help increase awareness around the urban forest, Town staff have increased the number of information sessions and workshops they host. In 2015, the Town supported the Town's first Tree Tenders Course. This is an in depth, four session course led by LEAF, and teaches residents how to become a citizen arborist and help protect and maintain the urban forest in their community. In addition, the Town of Ajax collaborated with the TRCA and LEAF to host the 1st annual celebration of National Tree Day in September 2015. This free workshop informed residents how to identify trees in their neighborhood, as well as how to look out for pests such as the Emerald Ash Borer. Both these workshop proved to be successful and the intent is to host them again in 2016.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Funding is identified through annual operating budgets and are also supported by tree compensation received in conjunction with development applications. The Town continues to pursue additional funding opportunities through grants and partnerships.

COMMUNICATION ISSUES:

In 2012, The Town of Ajax created an EAB awareness program which included:
Creation of the Ajax.ca/EAB website, the creation of:

- FAQ brochure,
- Banners installed at major facilities,
- Creation of the Tree Care Kit,
- Information events.

When pruning, treating, removing or replanting of trees takes place on a street, residents are notified through a Tree Inspection Hanger before the work commences. This door hanger indicates the type of work, and the approximate time for completion. Residents residing in close proximity to woodlots where tree removals are scheduled, will also receive this type of notification as well as there being signage installed around the perimeter of the woodlot and information being placed on the Town's website.

CONCLUSION:

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has altered the urban forest of Ajax since its presence was first confirmed in 2012. In order to minimize the impacts that this insect has on the urban forest, Town staff have implemented a number of management actions as highlighted within the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan, 2012.

Outcomes show that the impacts are occurring faster than anticipated. This is shown through the Town's street and park tree inventory and the 2015 ash woodlot inventory. Ajax staff will continue to implement the treatment schedule for ash trees that are located in parks and on streets showing resilience. Trees that are dead or posing a safety risk in parks and woodlots will be removed. All trees removed will be replaced or relocated depending on the site suitability. Ajax staff continue to offer community planting opportunities with its partners as well as operate the five year restoration plantings to help maintain tree coverage in Ajax. Ajax is also supporting a number of subsidized tree planting programs including LEAF Backyard Tree Planting programs and Forest Ontario's Five Million Trees Durham program to aid residents looking to increase/ replace trees on private property.

It is recommended that Council receive the 2016 Ajax Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan update for information.

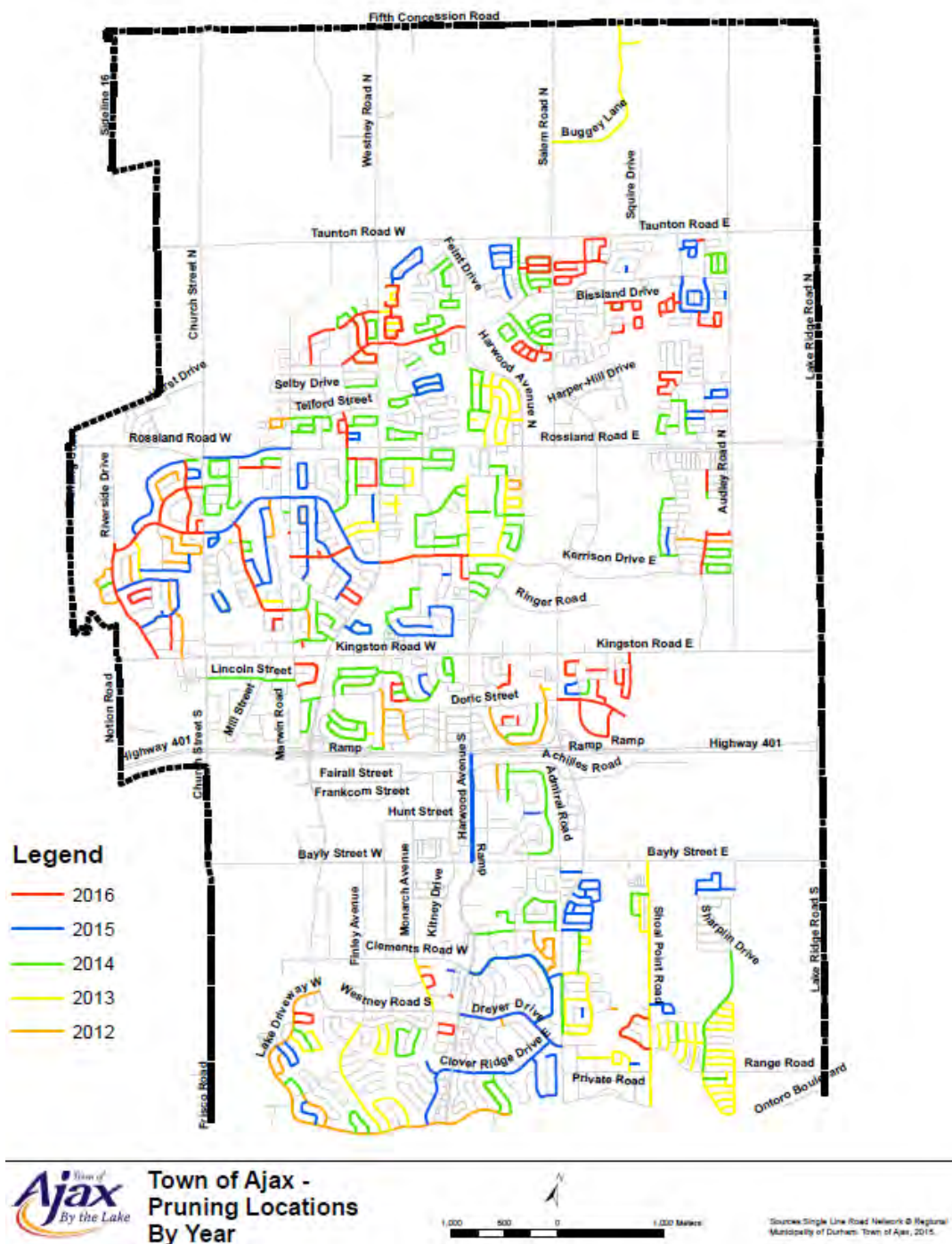
Craig Blencowe, Urban Forestry Technician, Environmental Services

Jade Schofield, Env Sustainability Coordinator, Operations and Environmental Services

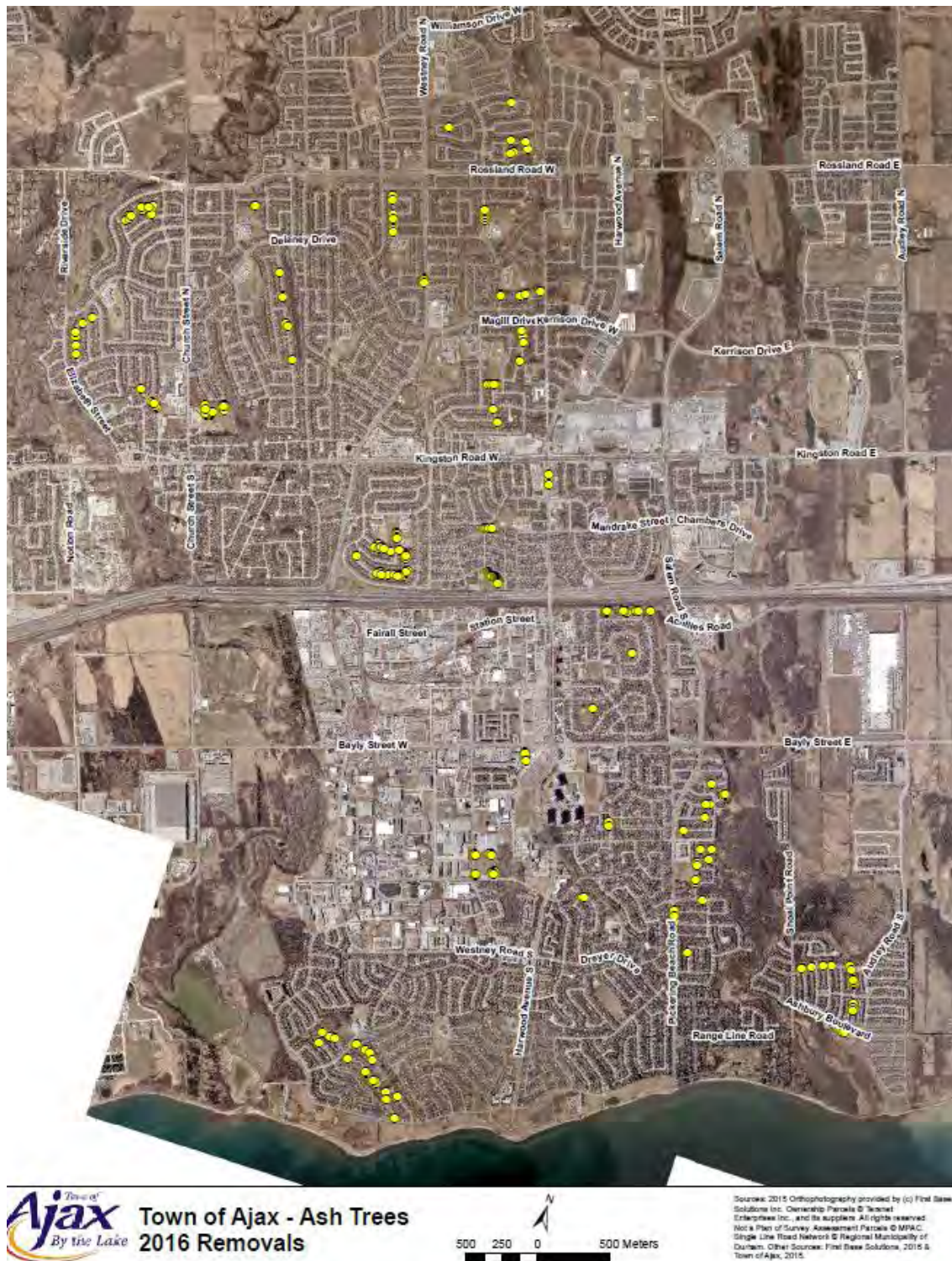
Tim Field, Manager of Environmental Services

Dave Meredith, Director of Operations and Environmental Services

ATTACHEMENT A) Street Pruning Map 2012-2016



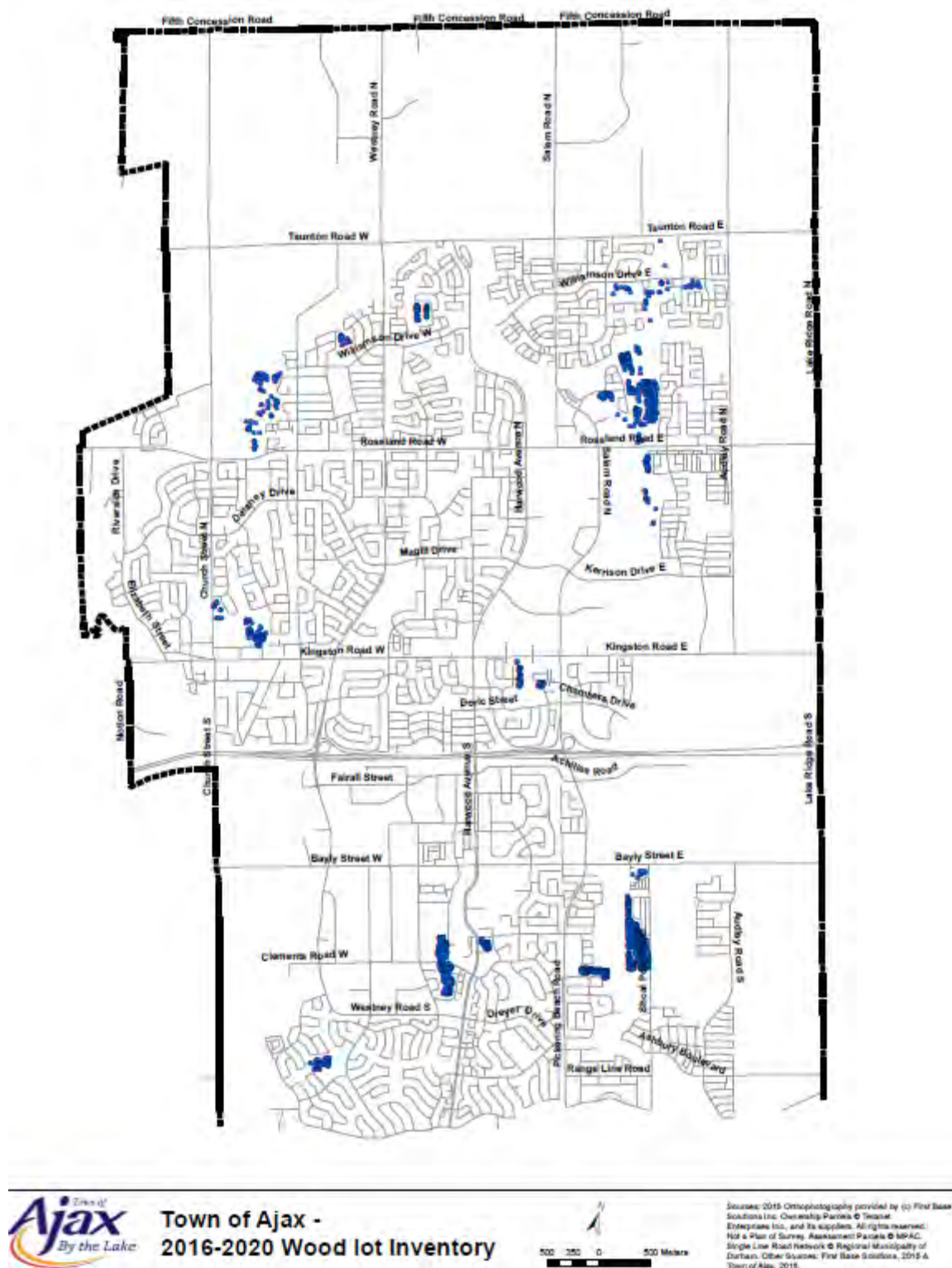
ATTACHMENT B) Street Tree Removals (2016)



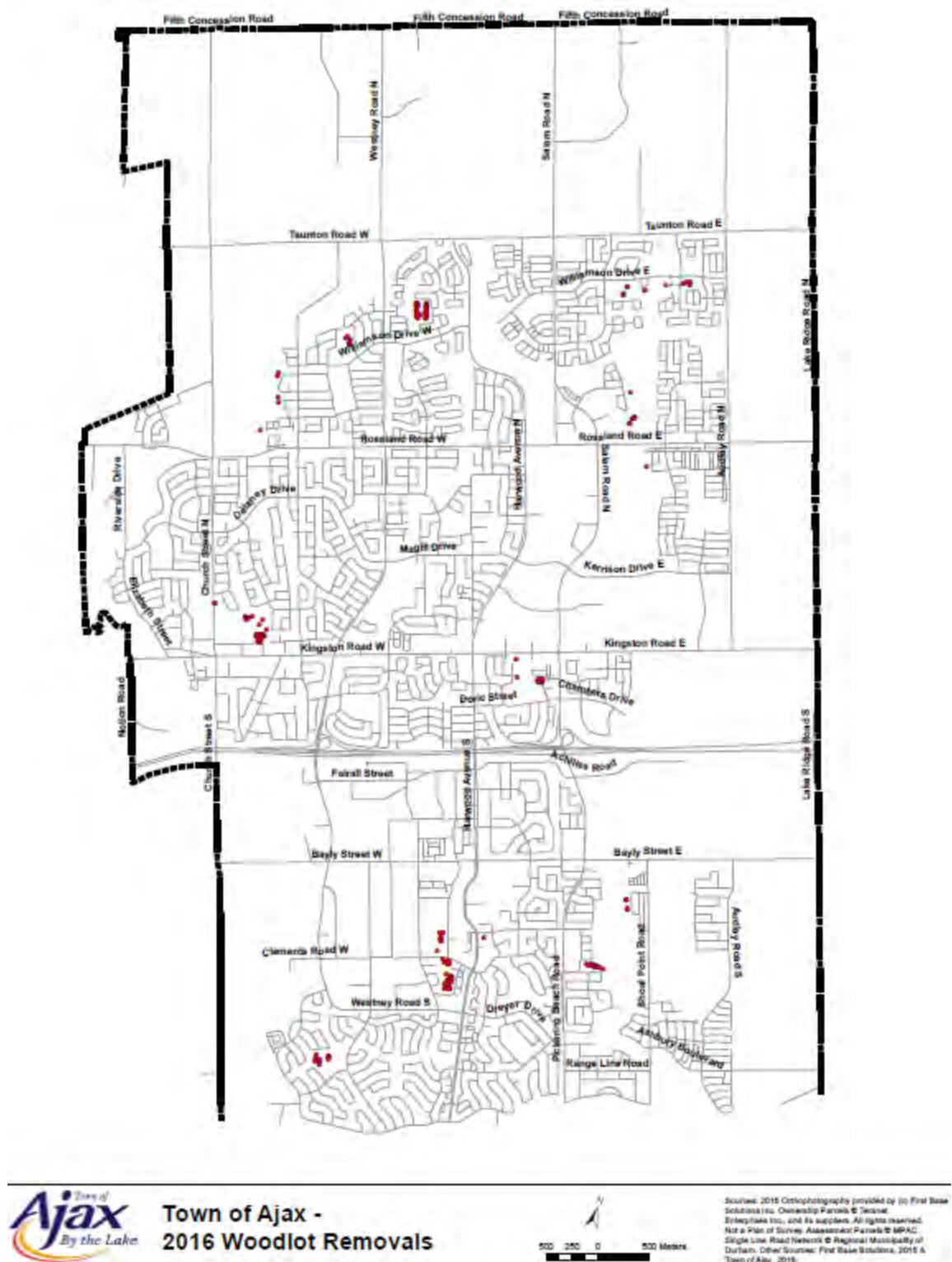
ATTACHMENT C Street Tree Treatment (2016)



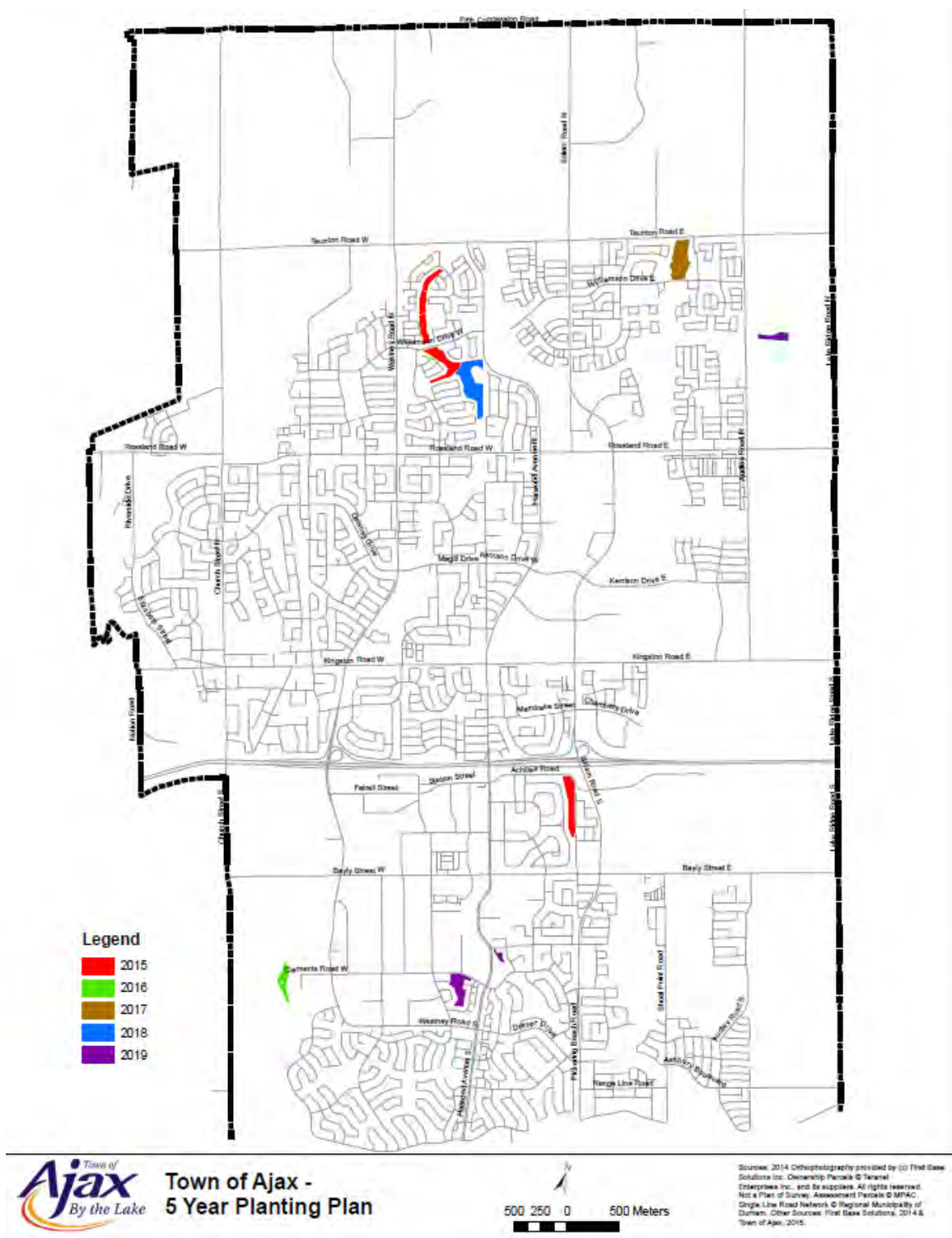
ATTACHMENT D) Woodlot Inventory/ Ash Map



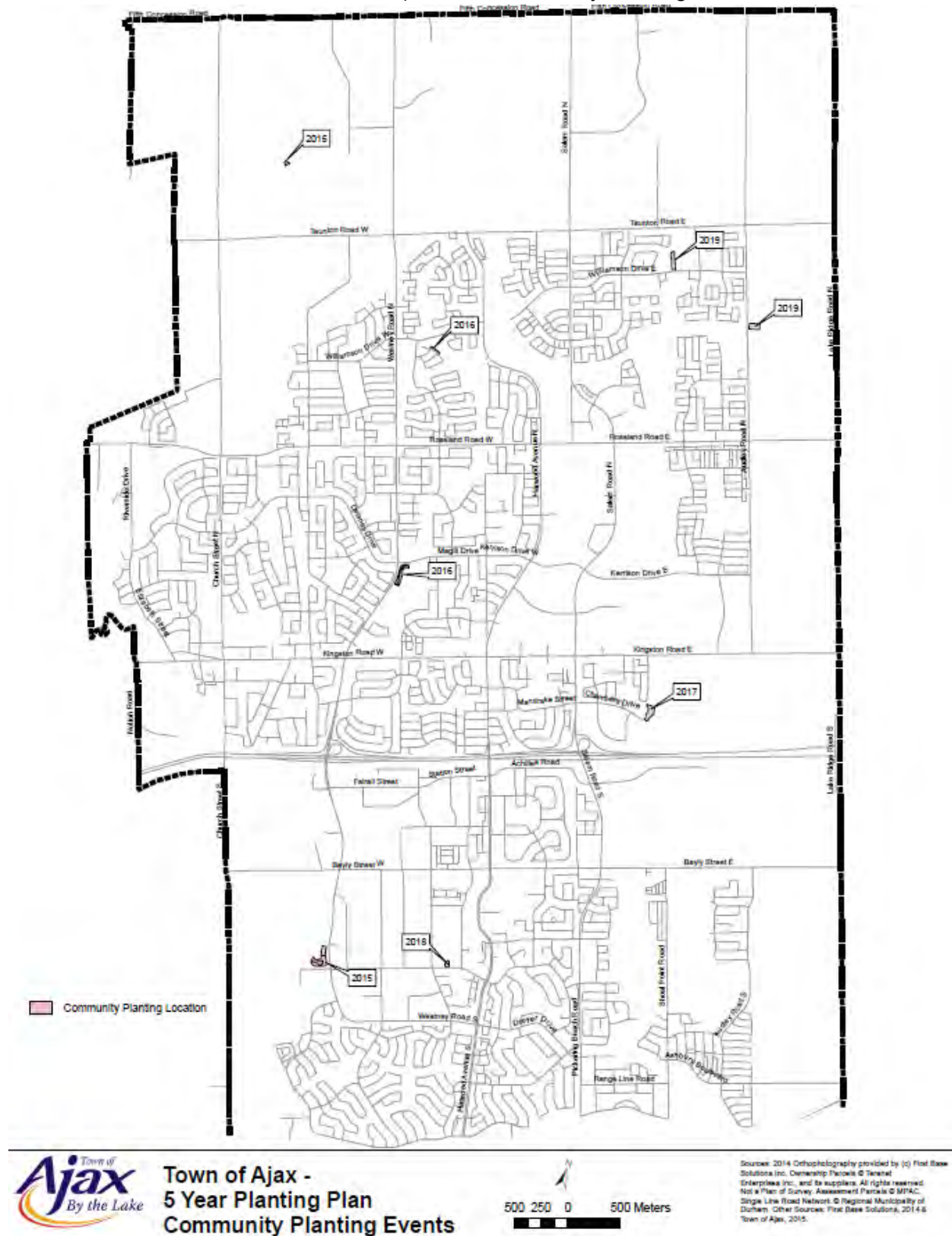
ATTACHMENT E) Woodlot Hazardous Trees to Be Removed (2016)



ATTACHMENT F) 5 Year Planting Plan



ATTACHMENT G) 5 Year Community Planting Plan



ATTACHMENT H) Leaf Backyard Tree Planting Program and Tree Tenders Ajax 2015 Final
Report

LEAF BACKYARD TREE PLANTING PROGRAM AND TREE TENDERS:

AJAX

2015 FINAL REPORT



SUMMARY OF 2015 DELIVERABLES

| DELIVERABLES | RESULTS |
|---|--|
| Obtaining a minimum of 50 registered and paid participants by December 31st 2015 for receiving a tree in the backyard planting program (shrubs equivalent to 0.5 trees) in Ajax, at the supplementary rate of \$150- 220, to be planted no later than by May 30th 2016. | <p>19 trees and 31 shrubs were planted in 2015.</p> <p>8 trees and 2 shrubs have been sold for planting in spring 2016.</p> <p>43.5 total trees planted in 2015 or sold for spring 2016.</p> |
| Provision of GIS coordinates providing the property owners gives permission to the Town of Ajax of all the tree locations and species planted to the Town of Ajax | Addresses of 2015 planting sites have been provided in this report for those homeowners who have given us permission to share this information. Nearest intersections have been provided for those who did not grant us permission to share addresses. |
| The attendance of a minimum of three community events in Ajax in 2015 to promote the Backyard planting pilot program | LEAF staff attended 4 community events in Ajax in 2015 to promote the Backyard Tree Planting Program, speaking directly with 120 people. |
| One Tree Care workshop that is free of charge for participants in Ajax in 2015 | One Tree Care workshop was provided to Ajax residents free of charge on September 23, 2015 . 15 people attended. |
| One Tree Tenders course in fall of 2015 within Ajax (paid registration) | One Tree Tenders course was offered on September 29, October 1, 3 and 6 . There were a total of 6 graduates. |
| Creation, print and distribution of a Durham-Ajax brochure with the presence of all funding partner logos | A Durham-Ajax Backyard Tree Planting Program brochure with all funding partner logos was created, printed and distributed. |
| Permission for partners to reuse promotional material through their means of communication for purpose of promoting or reporting on the pilot program. | Partners have permission to reuse promotional material as needed to promote or report on the pilot program. |



BACKYARD TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

In 2015, with support from the Town of Ajax, Region of Durham, Toronto and Region Conservation, and Ontario Power Generation, we offered our subsidized Backyard Tree Planting Program as a pilot program to residents of Ajax. The service includes an arborist consultation, delivery and planting of all trees. Native shrubs, Native Garden Kits and Edible Garden Kits are also available for delivery. The target number of plantings for the pilot project was 50 trees (with shrubs counting 2 to 1 for trees) and we are currently at 43.5 (87% of our target).

THANK YOU for your continued support.

| | PLANTINGS COMPLETED IN SPRING OR FALL 2015 | PLANTINGS BOOKED FOR SPRING 2016 |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| TREES | 19 | 8 |
| SHRUBS | 31 | 2 |
| NATIVE GARDEN KITS | 0 | 0 |
| EDIBLE GARDEN KITS | 1 | 0 |
| PARTICIPANTS | 16 | 5 |
| CONSULTATIONS* | 16 | N/A |
| APPLICATIONS* | 18 | N/A |

*COMPLETED BETWEEN JANUARY 1 AND NOVEMBER 30, 2015.

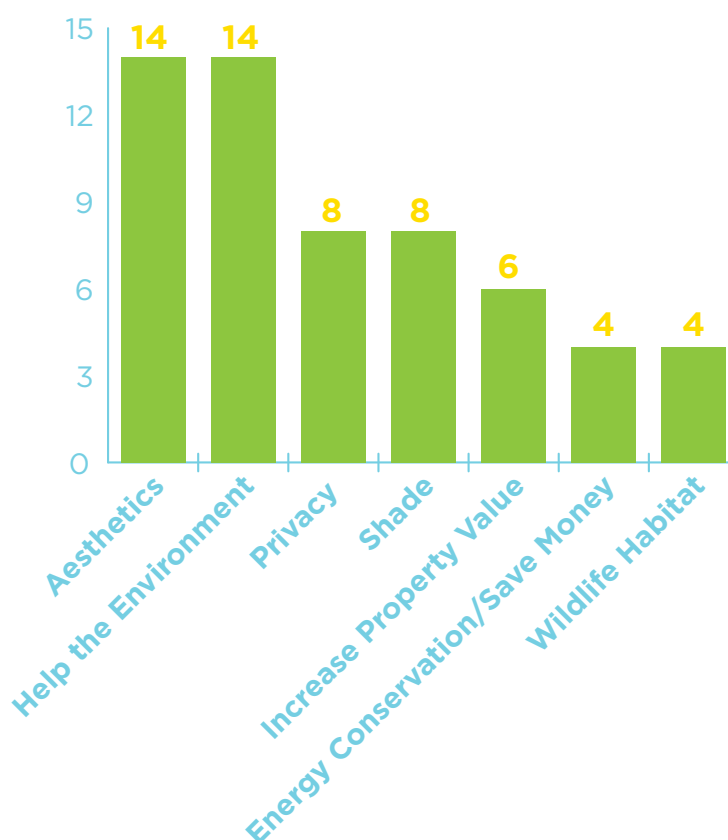




IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITIES, ONE TREE AT A TIME

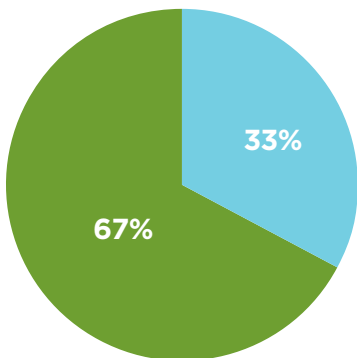
We ask our Backyard Tree Planting Program participants what factors motivate them to plant a new tree. Based on surveys filled out by individuals at the time they signed up to participate in 2015, the most common reasons for planting trees were aesthetics, help the environment, shade and privacy.

TOP THREE REASONS FOR WANTING A TREE



At the end of each season, we send out a post-planting survey via email to get participants' input on their experience with our program. In 2015, three individuals completed this survey (19% of participants). One question we ask on this survey is why they chose to participate in the LEAF program. The top response was that they value the value the planting service provided through the program (67%).

In addition, 100% of 2015 participants who completed our post-planting survey said that their tree and/or shrub species choices were influenced by LEAF.



- 0% SUBSIDIZED PRICE
- 67% PLANTING
- 0% NATIVE SPECIES SELECTION
- 33% DELIVERY
- 0% ARBORIST CONSULTATION

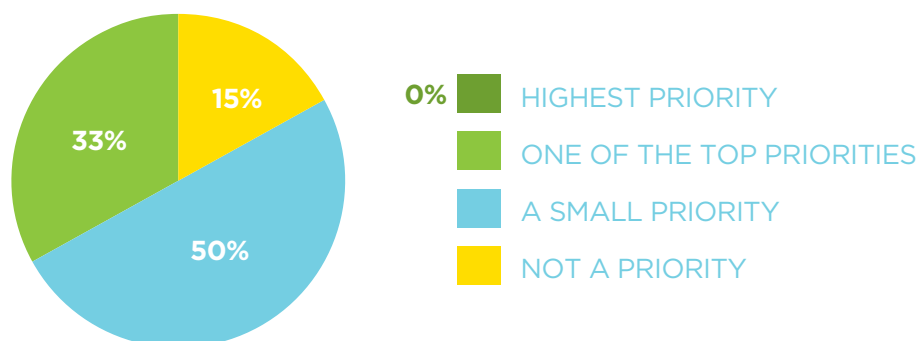
WHAT MOTIVATED YOU THE MOST TO CHOOSE LEAF?

ENERGY CONSERVATION AND OUR URBAN FOREST

When trees are planted in strategic positions around a home, they can contribute significantly to energy conservation. In the summer, shade trees planted on the west and south sides of a house can reduce cooling costs by 25-40% and reduce peak energy demand by up to 30%, according to a study by the University of California Berkeley. Evergreen trees planted for windbreak purposes on the north side of one's property can save 6-11% on winter heating energy needs. And shading an air conditioning unit with shrubs will allow it to run more efficiently, thereby leading to even more savings!

LEAF's Backyard Tree Planting Program can help homeowners maximize their energy conservation savings. Seventy-five per cent of participants signing up for our planting program in 2015 indicated that they wanted a tree for shade and/or energy conservation, and 83% noted that planting for energy conservation was a priority. Our arborists assist homeowners in selecting appropriate planting locations so that their new trees will provide shade or windbreaks, resulting in savings for years to come.

RATE THE PRIORITY
OF PLANTING
YOUR TREE(S) TO
MAXIMIZE ENERGY
CONSERVATION IN
COOLING NEEDS
FOR YOUR HOME:



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF TREES PLANTED BY LEAF

We encourage our participants to use the Ontario Residential Tree Benefits Estimator (ORTBE) to discover the benefits that their new (and existing) trees will provide for them and for the environment. This interactive, web-based tool was developed by LEAF in partnership with Dr. Andrew Millward of Ryerson University's Urban Forest Research & Ecological Disturbance (UFRED) Group. It is hosted online at www.yourleaf.org and may be accessed free of charge by anyone visiting the website.

Some of the benefits for which the ORTBE can provide estimates are:

- Stormwater runoff mitigation (m3)
- Instantaneous demand savings (kW);
- Sequestered/avoided carbon dioxide (CO2);
- Conserved energy (kWh);
- Air pollution removed (kg);
- Tree replacement value (\$).

The ORTBE has the ability to both model future benefits of a newly planted tree as well as deliver the current and accumulated benefits of an existing tree.

| SMALL TREES | SEQUESTERED CO2 (KG) | STORMWATER MITIGATION (L) | AIR POLLUTION REMOVED (KG) |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| over first 10 years of life | 16 | 4,874 | 1 |
| over first 40 years of life | 123 | 40,558 | 10 |
| over expected life (55 years) | 183 | 66,689 | 16 |

| MEDIUM TREES | SEQUESTERED CO2 (KG) | STORMWATER MITIGATION (L) | AIR POLLUTION REMOVED (KG) |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| over first 10 years of life | 338 | 21818 | 4 |
| over first 40 years of life | 2048 | 241782 | 39 |
| over expected life (60 years) | 3103 | 512985 | 77 |

| LARGE TREES | SEQUESTERED CO2 (KG) | STORMWATER MITIGATION (L) | AIR POLLUTION REMOVED (KG) |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| over first 10 years of life | 210 | 18,560 | 3 |
| over first 40 years of life | 2,500 | 195,242 | 29 |
| over expected life (75 years) | 6,385 | 625,558 | 85 |

| CONIFER EVERGREEN TREES | SEQUESTERED CO2 (KG) | STORMWATER MITIGATION (L) | AIR POLLUTION REMOVED (KG) |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| over first 10 years of life | 542 | 31651 | 3 |
| over first 40 years of life | 3921 | 260022 | 23 |
| over expected life (75 years) | 7799 | 640985 | 57 |



The following calculations were made using the Ontario Residential Tree Benefits Estimator based on trees planted by LEAF in Ajax.

PLANTED IN 2015

| SMALL TREES (2) | SEQUESTERED CO ₂ (KG) | STORMWATER MITIGATION (L) | AIR POLLUTION REMOVED (KG) |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| over first 10 years of life | 32 | 9748 | 2 |
| over first 40 years of life | 246 | 81116 | 20 |
| over expected life (55 years) | 366 | 133378 | 32 |

| MEDIUM TREES (6) | SEQUESTERED CO ₂ (KG) | STORMWATER MITIGATION (L) | AIR POLLUTION REMOVED (KG) |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| over first 10 years of life | 2,028 | 130,908 | 24 |
| over first 40 years of life | 12,288 | 1,450,692 | 234 |
| over expected life (60 years) | 18,618 | 3,077,910 | 462 |

| LARGE TREES (7) | SEQUESTERED CO ₂ (KG) | STORMWATER MITIGATION (L) | AIR POLLUTION REMOVED (KG) |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| over first 10 years of life | 1,470 | 129,920 | 21 |
| over first 40 years of life | 17,500 | 1,366,694 | 203 |
| over expected life (75 years) | 44,695 | 4,378,906 | 595 |

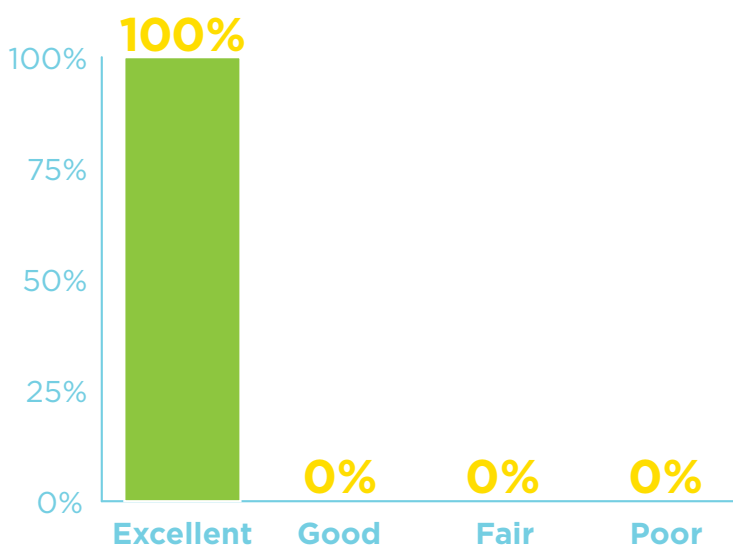


CLIENT SATISFACTION

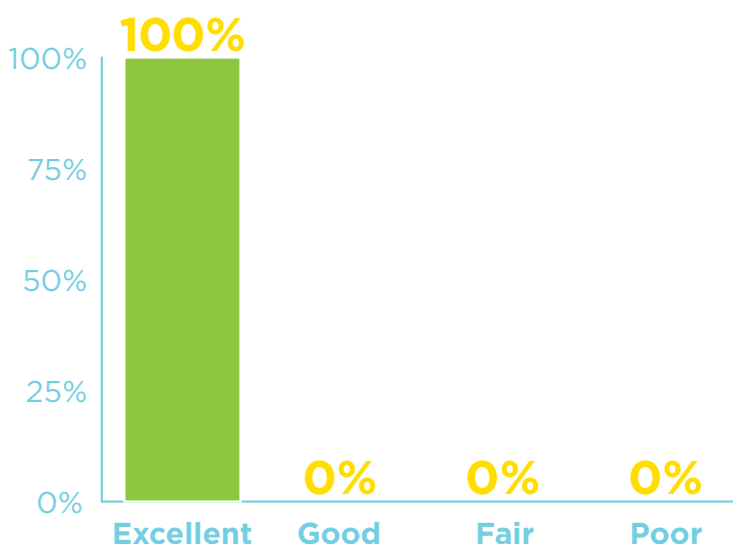
At LEAF, we firmly believe that a satisfied homeowner who has a tree that they love is going to be more likely to give it the care it needs to get established and thrive in the long run. For this reason, we strive to provide optimal customer service to our participants, and the results from our post-planting survey suggest that we have succeeded at doing so! All survey respondents indicated that our staff courtesy and professionalism was excellent, and all agreed that our staff knowledge of trees was excellent as well.

In 2014, 100% of survey respondents said they would recommend the program to others, and 100% indicated that they found the program convenient to participate in as well. Three individuals completed our post-planting survey (19% of total participants).

STAFF COURTESY & PROFESSIONALISM



STAFF KNOWLEDGE OF TREES





"I am planting this tree in honour of my late husband. For the last year of his life he was in a wheelchair, and enjoyed the oasis of the backyard. It gets very hot here, so now I enjoy sharing the shade with the dog and the squirrels. LEAFw has been great so far - I'm glad I found your advertisement!"

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

WENDY

Fall 2015 participant

"We chose to plant a Freeman maple for its beautiful fall colour. None of my neighbours have trees, so I'm looking forward to the added greenery - I hope the birds will enjoy it too!"

NICOLE

Had consultation in Fall 2015

Will have trees planted in Spring 2016

TREES PLANTED BY LOCATION

| ADDRESS OR NEAREST INTERSECTION | COMMON NAME | TREE (T) OR SHRUB (S) | PLANTING SEASON |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Rands Rd and Finlay Ave | Silver maple | t | 2015F |
| Williamson Rd W and Atherton Ave | Freeman maple | t | 2015F |
| Mill St and Brooks Rd | basswood | t | 2015F |
| 50 Portelli CRES | Freeman maple | t | 2015F |
| | American elm | t | 2015F |
| | nannyberry | s | 2015F |
| 117 Church ST S | honey locust | t | 2015F |
| 5 Whitefoot CRES | American elm | t | 2015F |
| | Kentucky coffeetree | t | 2015F |
| | black chokeberry | s | 2015F |
| | grey dogwood (S) | s | 2015F |
| | nannyberry | s | 2015F |
| 5 Allard AVE | bur oak | t | 2015F |
| | red osier dogwood | s | 2015F |
| | black chokeberry | s | 2015F |
| 4 Bashford RD | Allegheny serviceberry | t | 2015F |
| | meadowsweet | s | 2015F |



PHOTO © 2015 BRENNAN ANSTETT / LEAF

| ADDRESS OR NEAREST INTERSECTION | COMMON NAME | TREE (T) OR SHRUB (S) | PLANTING SEASON |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 22 Hanaway DR | American elm | t | 2015F |
| | bur oak | t | 2015F |
| | American hazelnut | s | 2015F |
| | American hazelnut | s | 2015F |
| | American hazelnut | s | 2015F |
| | grey dogwood (S) | s | 2015F |
| | grey dogwood (S) | s | 2015F |
| 74 Beverton CRES | grey dogwood (T) | t | 2015F |
| | black chokeberry | s | 2015F |
| | common ninebark | s | 2015F |
| 886 Finley AVE | basswood | t | 2015F |
| 80 Andrea RD | basswood | t | 2015F |
| | highbush cranberry | s | 2015F |
| | snowberry | s | 2015F |
| | meadowsweet | s | 2015F |
| | meadowsweet | s | 2015F |
| | black chokeberry | s | 2015F |
| | St. John's wort | s | 2015F |
| | St. John's wort | s | 2015F |



PHOTO © 2015 BRENNAN ANSTETT / LEAF

TREE TENDERS PROGRAM

This multi-day course provides basic arboriculture training to volunteers through a combination of classroom lectures and outdoor, hands-on activities. The course was delivered in four sessions (September 29, October 1, 3 and 6) at the Greenwood Pavilion and Carruthers Marsh Pavilion. There were a total of six graduates.

Classes covered tree biology, tree identification, soils, tree selection, care and planting, municipal tree protection and volunteer stewardship opportunities. Instructors, professionals with a wide array of expertise and experience, offered excellent practical examples to supplement course material and provided participants with the opportunity to create contacts in the industry.

INSTRUCTORS WERE:

- **CRAIG BLENCOWE**
Urban Forestry Technician,
Town of Ajax
- **JADE SCHOFIELD**
Environmental Sustainability Coordinator,
Town of Ajax
- **MARK SHERMAN**
ISA Certified Arborist,
LEAF
- **LAUREN BROWN**
Education & Outreach Coordinator. LEAF

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PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

At the end of the course, participant feedback was collected. Questions about course topics, speakers, and overall program delivery were posed. The following summary is based on responses from 6 individuals (100% of participants).

Questions below are average responses rated on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = not at all to 5 = completely):



The goal of the course was to inspire people and to provide practical information that will be used to help the urban forest. Did we succeed in this goal?

NOT AT ALL

COMPLETELY



To what extent did the course meet your expectations?

NOT AT ALL

COMPLETELY



Was the information provided clear and succinct?

NOT AT ALL

COMPLETELY



Were the speakers effective?

NOT AT ALL

COMPLETELY



Because part of the goal of the course is to inspire people to use the information that they learn to improve the urban forest, we asked participants what they planned to do with the knowledge they had gained from the program. We received a variety of responses, including:

“To help improve the canopy in my neighbourhood through well-informed education and advocacy.”

“Share knowledge and info with Durham Master Gardeners and use to educate customers that come into the nursery where I work.”

“To do a better job at planting personal trees. Probably get involved in more community tree events.”

“To care for the 200 trees at my school.”

“Use the information I learnt and pass it on to other people who are interested in caring for our urban forest.”

GENERAL COMMENTS

“I learned a lot about trees even though I already knew quite a lot – well, more than most.”

“Great course – enthusiastic and passionate presenters.”

“Try to design some program or lecture that will attract residents to attend that are not really understanding the value of the urban forest. For example, trees as an asset to property value, heritage value, landscape/aesthetic value...etc.”

*“What a great experience!
Teachers were knowledgeable
and so enthusiastic.
Loved every moment.”*

JENNIFER

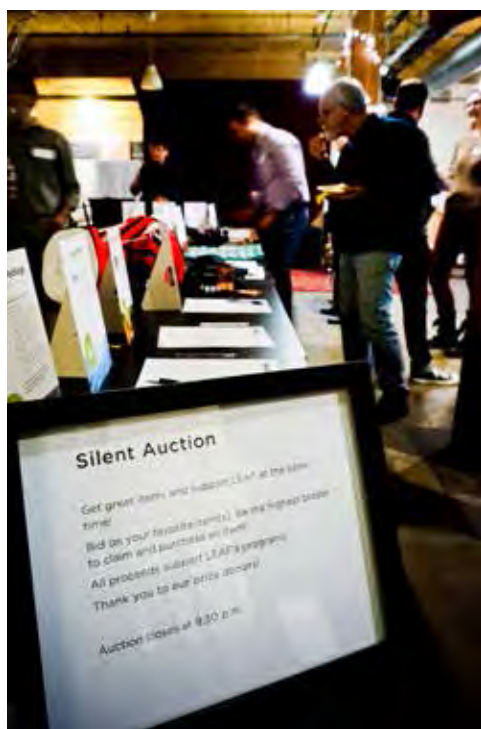
TREE TENDERS GRADUATE

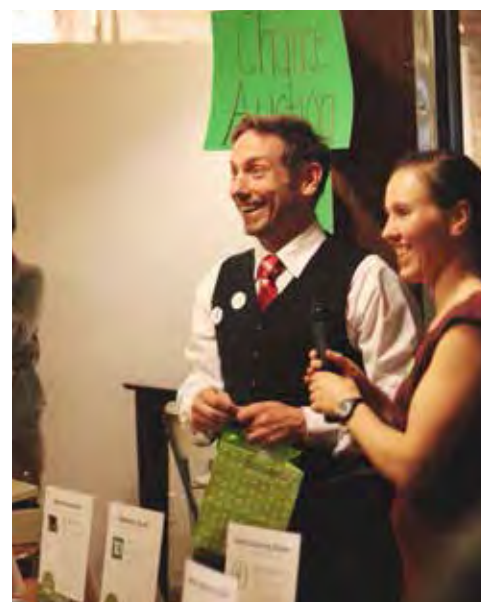


BEST FOREST FRIENDS SOCIAL

NOVEMBER 13, 2015

As a way of thanking all of those who contributed to LEAF's urban forest initiatives over the past year, we held our annual Best Forest Friends (BFF) Social on November 13, 2015. We invited all of our Tree Tender graduates, current volunteers and Urban Forest Demonstration Garden stewards to the event in order to demonstrate our appreciation for their amazing work and inspiring commitment. Over 120 people attended.





The Town of Ajax, Region of Durham, and Toronto and Region Conservation were celebrated partners at the BFF Social. During her opening remarks, our Executive Director thanked these partners for their support. In addition, all three logos appeared on special signage that recognized LEAF's funding partners in the event space.

RECOGNITION FOR PARTNER SUPPORT

The Town of Ajax, Region of Durham and Toronto and Region Conservation logos are included on the Backyard Tree Planting Program brochure and on the Tree Tenders Training Program poster.

These partner logos also appear in multiple areas of the LEAF website including:

- **Residential Planting Program Pages**
- **Supporting Partners Page**
- **Tree Tenders Volunteer Training Page**

LEAF BLOG

In 2015 we wrote nine blogs relating to the programs we offer in Ajax. These were distributed as articles in our electronic newsletter which currently reaches 2,037 individuals. In addition, we shared the blog posts multiple times through Twitter and on our Facebook page. We also linked to the partners' websites and social media accounts when posting relevant content.

- LEAF Puts Down New Roots in Ajax
- LEAF Loves Ajax!
- The Sweetest Tree Around
- Seeing the Understory through the Trees
- The American Chestnut: Extinct or Returning?
- Tree Tenders Sprouting in New Communities
- From Tree Tender to Arborist
- AI, Stewardship and the Tree
- The Purest of Noble Trees



PHOTOS THIS PG © 2015 BRENNAN ANSTETT / LEAF



WORKSHOP

| HOST ORGANIZATION | DATE | TITLE | PARTICIPANTS |
|--|------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| TOWN OF AJAX (NATIONAL TREE DAY URBAN FOREST WORKSHOP) | 23-Sept-15 | Tree Selection and Planting | 15 |
| TOTAL PARTICIPANTS | | | 15 |

EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS AT PUBLIC EVENTS

| EVENT NAME | DATE | HOST ORGANIZATION | INDIVIDUALS SPOKEN WITH |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| AJAX GREEN LIVING DAY | 23-April-15 | Town of Ajax/Forests Ontario | 30 |
| TRAILFEST | 14-Jun-15 | Town of Ajax | 15 |
| AJAX WATERFRONT FESTIVAL | 21-Jun-15 | Ajax Home Week | 35 |
| TASTE OF AJAX | 15-Aug-15 | Town of Ajax | 40 |
| TOTAL INDIVIDUALS SPOKEN WITH | | | 120 |

EARNED MEDIA

| MEDIA OUTLET | TITLE | DATE |
|----------------------|---|------------|
| AJAX NEWS ADVERTISER | Ajax has a tree-mendous program to maintain its urban forests | 13-May-15 |
| AJAX NEWS ADVERTISER | Ajax offering tree-mendous environmental programs | 19-Sept-15 |

durhamregion.com

Ajax has a tree-mendous program to maintain its urban forests

Work includes extensive plantings and treatments for ash trees

Ajax News Advertiser

By Keith Gilligan ✉

AJAX – The Town's tree canopy is an important feature and Ajax officials are working to ensure it remains thick and lush.

About 23 per cent of Ajax is covered with tree canopy and to make sure it remains, the Town has developed an urban forest management plan.

The plan is designed to "protect and enhancement of our existing woodlots," said Tim Field, manager, environmental services.

During a recent general government committee meeting, Mr. Field said the plan was developed in 2011 and is to last 20 years.

The plan has 32 recommendations, of which 12 have been completed.

"There are a number that are ongoing and may never be finalized. We'll keep working on them."

A street inventory was completed in 2012 and there are "42,542 trees," Mr. Field noted.

About eight per cent of trees were ash in 2012, but that's been reduced to about five per cent because of the emerald ash borer. The Town has replaced 736 ash trees and 750 more will be replaced this year.

"We'll remove them only when we have to, when they're infested beyond repair. We'll assess each tree," he stated.

If an ash tree can't be saved by treatment, it will be removed.

"We'll determine if it's worth treating or removal."

He noted treatment has been "very cost effective. The number (of ash trees) are important to the community."



Tree planting in Ajax

Jason Liebrechts / Metroland

AJAX – Cam Palmer and Jake Cookman were among crews planting trees on McNicol Crescent to replace ash trees affected by emerald ash borer in the area. May 12, 2015

Ajax is also partnering with Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) to promote planting trees in backyards. "We want to enhance the urban forest on residential properties in backyards."

The Town is gearing up for the planting season and about 800 trees will be planted in the spring alone, he said in an interview.

Trees planted to replace ash trees are "a diverse species group. It's the right tree in the right place. We try to avoid monoculture on one street."

The Town tries to plant native species, although Carolinian trees are being introduced because of climate change. As the temperatures warm, Carolinians can be planted further north.

"Usually, you see them further south."

After a tough winter, staff checks on the condition of the Carolinians, he noted.

"I haven't seen them not been able to survive," he said.

SIDEBAR

Ajax has an unbe-LEAF-able new program

Ajax has joined with Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) on the Backyard Tree Planting Program.

"This program helps residents beautify their homes while also helping increase tree canopy cover across the Town of Ajax," said Janet McKay, LEAF's executive director, in a press release.

Participating homeowners will get a consultation with an arborist and a five-to-eight-foot-tall tree, as well as delivery and planting service, all for the low price of \$150 to \$220. Native shrubs and garden kits are also available.

"Our program helps residents get the right tree in the right place. We work together with property owners, suggesting species and planting locations that will work best for their yard", Ms. McKay added. "And we return to deliver and plant the trees as well, making it easy and convenient for people to participate."

Jade Schofield, the environmental sustainability co-ordinator for Ajax, noted, "Healthy urban trees provide preventative health-care benefits through shade, filtered air and cleaner waterways. When planted strategically, they also reduce energy costs, increase property value and offer privacy. Native species also provide essential food and shelter for birds, butterflies and other wildlife, supporting our urban ecosystems."

For more information, visit www.yourleaf.org.

How this impacts you

- Ajax has spent thousands of dollars over the past decade to enhance and expand the Town's urban forest.
- These efforts have been negatively impacted by invasive species, such as the emerald ash borer, and incidents such as the 2013 ice storm. About five per cent of Ajax's 42,542 trees are ash trees. The Town is trying to save as many ash trees as possible. If a tree can't be saved, it's removed and replaced with a different species. The ice storm took out about 300 trees around the community.
- Ajax has developed an extensive education and engagement program to help residents plant and maintain trees

Ajax offering tree-mendous environmental programs

Workshops will aid homeowners plant, care for trees

Ajax News Advertiser

By Keith Gilligan ✉

AJAX -- Almost one-quarter of Ajax is covered by a tree canopy.

To ensure the existing canopy remains healthy while adding to it is the aim of some initiatives this fall.

Jade Schofield, the environmental sustainability co-ordinator for Ajax, said, "We need to increase the Ajax tree canopy," adding the canopy had been impacted over the years by the 2013 ice storm, the emerald ash borer and climate change.

To help residents care for trees, shrubs and bushes, the Town, in conjunction with Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests, is offering a 14-hour primer on tree care.

Melissa Williams, the program manager at LEAF, said those taking the Tree Tender Volunteer Training will learn "how trees function and what they need to survive. There's tree biology."

Participants will also have the chance to plant a tree.

"There's a great range of experts coming, people who really know their stuff," Ms. Williams said.

The program will appeal to "really anyone interested in learning about trees. They'll learn how to care for trees on their property. We get a lot of interest on this," she added. "We've had a lot of people in the Tree Tenders who have gone on to start an adopt-a-tree program. They'll start a program in the community. We can help support them."

The Tree Tender program aims to "raise awareness of urban forests," Ms. Williams added.

LEAF is a non-profit dedicated to improving urban forests, she noted.



Ajax environmental programs

Sabrina Byrnes / Metroland

AJAX -- Jade Schofield, environmental sustainability co-ordinator with the Town of Ajax, will be conducting some fall environmental programs this fall. August 24, 2015

Earlier this year, LEAF began a backyard tree planting program in Ajax and so far, about 25 trees have been planted.

Putting trees in backyards increases shelter, Ms. Williams noted, adding, "There's more space, so trees tend to do better."

Municipalities usually plant trees in front yards.

"They're native species and they're well suited to this area. They're great habitat for wildlife," she said.

Ms. Schofield noted the cost is between \$150 and \$220, depending on the species selected. The fee includes a consultation with an arbourist, a tree between five feet to eight feet, mulch and care guide. LEAF personnel also come and help plant the tree.

Having LEAF help "takes pressure off the owner," Ms. Schofield stated. "They'll look at the backyard and suggest the best tree. They'll come out and plant the tree. We need to make sure it's the right tree in the right place."

National Tree Day is Wednesday, Sept. 23 and LEAF is offering a free workshop at the Ajax Town Hall. There are three different presentations, one by LEAF on how to select, plant and care for trees on a property. The Town will speak about its urban forest management plan, while the Toronto Region Conservation Authority will talk about how to identify various trees.

Ms. Schofield said the aim of the programs is to "understand the urgency of these trees, the benefit to the community as a whole. Trees help decrease heat."

HOW TO CARE FOR A NEW TREE

Newly planted trees do require regular care to ensure that they survive -- and thrive, says Melissa Williams of LEAF.

Watering is especially crucial for a new tree, and LEAF recommends watering approximately twice per week using a hose on very low trickle for 15 to 20 minutes (or, use three to four full buckets/watering cans per tree) for the first three years after planting. It is key to ensure that water does not run off the surface and the tree receives a deep watering.

LEAF also recommends applying mulch (e.g. woodchips or other organic matter) to the soil surface in a doughnut shape around the tree, approximately two- to three-inches deep and as wide as possible. This will help retain moisture in the soil, and also prevents grass and weed competition, provides nutrients as it decomposes, and prevents damage from lawn mowers and weed whackers.

INFORMATION ON THE TREE TENDER VOLUNTEER TRAINING

It's being offered on Tuesday, Sept. 29 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Greenwood Pavilion in the Greenwood Conservation Area on Greenwood Road.

The next session is on Thursday, Oct. 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Carruthers Marsh Pavilion, 55 Ashbury Blvd.

On Saturday, Oct. 3, the session runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Greenwood Pavilion.

The final session is on Tuesday, Oct. 6 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Greenwood Pavilion.

The cost is \$50 plus HST or \$75, plus HST, which includes a citizen arbourist manual.

To register, visit www.yourleaf.org/tree-tenders-registration or call 416-413-9244, ext. 14