

Presentation to

Honourable David Oraziatti, MPP

Minister of Community Safety
and
Correctional Services

St. Clair College of the Arts room
Private Members Lounge
Windsor, Ontario



AMO
August 15, 2016

Community Profile



Our Municipality is located in the southeastern end of The County of Renfrew. The County of Renfrew is the largest geographic county in Ontario with a land mass twice the size of Prince Edward Island! The County of Renfrew was founded in 1861 by European settlers. Wilno, a hamlet nestled near Algonquin Park, is recognized as Canada's First Official Polish settlement .

The County of Renfrew contains over 7,000 square kilometers including Greater Madawaska which is over 1,000 square kilometers of rugged and beautiful terrain including lakes, forest and a sparse, spread out population. The Crown holds approximately 160,000 acres or over 60 percent of the land mass in Greater Madawaska. This vast acreage affords visitors and residents employment, excellent fishing, hiking and hunting opportunities.

Greater Madawaska is a multi dimensional active living community playing host to many great attractions such as, our long time four season resort, Calabogie Peaks, . The ski hill has one of eastern Ontario's highest vertical drops. Calabogie Highlands is our 18 hole championship golf course stretching along, and next to the shores of Calabogie Lake. Our community includes Calabogie Lodge, a spectacular and successful time share development. We are also home to Calabogie Motorsport Park, described as the newest and most challenging motor course in North America. It has brought visitors from across the United States and all across Canada.

Crown Land and private holdings host, jointly and separately, a significant number of snowmobile and ski trails. Members of our community are also offering exciting whitewater experiences and paddling opportunities on the Madawaska River. There are numerous fishing holes and hunting spots on Crown and private land which are closely guarded multi-generational secrets.

Greater Madawaska is located 45 minutes from the western parts of Ottawa and 65 minutes from the seat of Canada's government. Our total population in 2011 was 2,485 people. We have had consistent growth of approximately 25 new homes a year over the last 10 years with our construction value topping \$11,000,000. It is estimated our population swells by between 10,000 and 15,000 over the summer months. With the ski hill also having visitors in the range of 180,000 people during the winter. We also play host to thousands of people attending the annual three day Mountain Man Music Festival in July and the three day Calabogie Class Axe Blues and Ribfest in August.

The Township of Greater Madawaska was formed in 2001 from three former rural municipalities each bringing its own charm to the union and governed by five members of Council each. The Municipality is governed by four Councilors elected in three wards and a Mayor elected at large. Greater Madawaska has three transfer stations, two fire halls, two

public works garages, a Medical Centre, a library and one central municipal administration building. The Municipality employs 18 full time employees and 6 part time employees and approximately 35 volunteer fire staff.

Our community's population is largely over 50 years of age and increasingly made up of recently retired active folks who have an avid interest in their community. We do not have a large commercial sector and are devoid of industrial tax base. Residential assessment is the financial engine funding the Municipality.

Overview of OPP Billing Model



History

December 2012 - the Auditor General of Ontario recommended that the OPP seek ways to simplify, and make more transparent, its cost-recovery methods while also addressing large variations in policing costs.

August 2013 - The Province committed to finding solutions for this issue at the AMO conference.

Fall 2013 - the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services held 14 engagement sessions across all five OPP regions to consult municipalities on a proposed billing model. 229 municipalities attended the sessions. The feedback was used to develop the new billing model.

February 23, 2014 – Township representatives made a delegation to Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services regarding concerns over the proposed billing model.

March 2014 - AMO convened the OPP Billing Steering Committee to review key items related to the OPP billing review.

May 1, 2014 – Day of Action – Call for residents to contact the Premier and Minister Yasir Naqvi to speak up regarding concerns from residents.

August 14, 2014 - Yasir Naqvi, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services will be hosting a province-wide media teleconference to announce that the proposed new OPP billing model has been approved by Cabinet and will be implemented, beginning January 1, 2015.

August 17, 2014 – Township representatives made a delegation to Yasir Naqvi, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services regarding concerns over the proposed billing model.

Financial Implications

To provide some perspective on the effect of the police bill on the Township of Greater Madawaska:

- Once the bill is fully implemented policing costs will have:
 - ◆ Increased 111.9% (or approximately \$373,461)
 - ◆ The tax levy increase associated solely with policing since 2014 will be 16.7%.

Main Issue

While we recognize that the previous billing model may not have been equitable to the more urban centres, the new billing model has resulted in a significant shift in policing costs from urban to rural. The significant increase in the police bill has not resulted in an increased level of service.

Commercial and industrial properties with any number of businesses at each location are only being counted as one property.

A residence that may have an apartment in the basement however, is being counted as two properties.

The main issue and question for Greater Madawaska with regards to policing is how can two properties be counted for differently. If a house with an apartment in the basement can be counted as two then how is it “fair” that a shopping mall with 75 stores be counted as one property?

The Township of Greater Madawaska fails to see how this method is fairer to all municipalities.

Steps the Township of Greater Madawaska has taken to date

Meetings with OPP and MPAC for clarification on various questions

Meetings and correspondence with various Ministers to express the concerns of the Township

Follow up with ratepayers to confirm the household counts and commercial units numbers are correct

Suggestions/Recommendations/Observations

In the Premier's speech at the 2014 AMO Conference, she stated: *"We worked with our municipal partners to make the billing model fairer and more transparent. Moving from an unbalanced model towards one that is equitable is not easy. It means there will be some who will benefit, and others who will not. So, as we make changes to ensure that public policy is equitable across Ontario"*. We would respectfully suggest, **the current model is not fairer or equitable.**

We question whether policing costs should be at the municipal level where there is no control over costs and no way of auditing the invoices received.

The model needs to be revised such that there are two Base Level of Service amounts, one for urban and one for rural. Urban municipalities receive a benefit simply due to the proximity to the OPP detachment.

All units within a commercial property (i.e. shopping mall) must be identified and used to make up the property counts for allocation of policing costs. The OPP has advised that MPAC is not currently collecting the number of businesses in commercial properties but MPAC has advised this is easily achievable.

Personal residential properties should be counted as one property regardless if there is someone living in the basement.

Develop two working groups (Rural and Urban) to review the current billing model with a directive to determine methods to allow for the bill to be audited. Working groups should include all key players such as MPAC and OPP Billing Staff.

Properties assessed under \$100,000, for example, should not be included in the property count.

Challenges incurred with the current OPP Billing Model



The Township of Greater Madawaska wishes to respectfully advise the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services some of the challenges that are being faced and some potential suggestions to address the concerns of the Township.

Commercial Property Counts vs Household Units

Issue/Challenge

Household counts are based on the “number of units”.

Commercial/industrial counts are based on the actual property and not the number of stores/businesses within a shopping mall or industrial parks.

Example and Comment(s)

A shopping mall may have a licensed establishment as a tenant which would increase demand on base services or require the use of more base services such as the RIDE program than the average residential property.

OPP has advised that MPAC does not have the information regarding the number of stores in shopping malls/centres.

MPAC has confirmed it would not be challenging to gather information regarding the number of tenants in commercial/industrial properties on an annual basis.

Concern/Challenge with Base Level Service

Issue/Challenge

There is currently no method in place, that we are aware of, to ensure that the Township of Greater Madawaska and rural municipal peers are getting their fair share of Base Level Service.

Furthermore, rural municipalities are unable to ensure they are not paying for various programs that are primarily being conducted in the more urban centres. (i.e. RIDE programs)

Example and Comment(s)

Are the number of RIDE stops held by the local detachment equally distributed, for instance based on the property counts, among the Townships they service?

As part of the annual billing statement is it possible to provide a breakdown of base services such that the Township and the residents can ensure they are getting value for their money and not subsidizing the urban centres?

The home municipality in which the OPP detachment resides receives an added level of service, which is not equally shared by the more rural municipalities. Therefore it is suggested that there be two Base Level of Service amounts, one for urban and one for rural.

Calls for Service Challenges

Issue/Challenge

The inability to ensure that one municipality is not being charged for a call for service that occurred in a neighbouring municipality.

Example and Comment(s)

There was a fatal incident in a neighbouring municipality, however all the news releases and even dispatch reported the incident in Greater Madawaska.

Currently there are no means to ensure the calls for service that are being billed is accurate as Township staff is not aware of all the incidents where the OPP are called.

In a meeting with the Ontario Provincial Police, in May 2016, Greater Madawaska was advised that the OPP would look into some solutions, however to date we have not been contacted.

Additional Issues/Concerns

Household Units

There are instances where the Township could be paying policing costs on properties that are not currently assessed and therefore not obtaining taxation dollars to be attributed to the police bill.

In the Township of Greater Madawaska, based on the 2016 tax rate in order to cover the cost per property of \$197.73 the property needs to be assessed at \$60,218.68. Please note that is solely to cover the costs of policing and not taking into consideration any of the other aspects involved in running a municipality such as roads, waste sites, etc.

Federally or Provincially Crown Owned Land

Over 60% of the land mass in the Township of Greater Madawaska belongs to the Province of Ontario. It was initially implied that municipalities would not be responsible for policing on Provincially Owned Land however upon reviewing a detailed property listing from MPAC there are instances where at least Greater Madawaska is being charged for policing for Provincial properties.

The Township of Greater Madawaska

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