



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** **Members of the Committee of the Whole**

**From:** **John Kennedy, City Clerk**

**Meeting Date:** **June 19, 2017**

**Subject:** **Report CPCLK17-014**  
**City of Peterborough Ward Boundary Review**

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## **Purpose**

A report to provide an update to Council on the City of Peterborough Ward Boundary Review and seek Council's direction to consult with the public.

## **Recommendations**

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report CPCLK17-014 dated June 19, 2017, of the City Clerk, as follows:

- a) That Report CPCLK17-014 be received for information and,
- b) That staff be directed to consult with the public on possible ward boundary configurations prior to any final recommendations being considered by Council.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

Sufficient funds exist in the Election budget to cover expenses associated with the preparation and hosting of any public meetings.

## Background

The City of Peterborough has contained five wards Otonabee (Ward 1), Monaghan (Ward 2), Town (Ward 3), Ashburnham (Ward 4) and Northcrest (Ward 5) since 1904. Over the years each of the wards has experienced population growth and boundary expansion due to development and annexation. Two Councillors are elected per ward and the Mayor is elected at large. This governance model would not change as part of the ward boundary review.

The City's existing ward boundaries were last reviewed prior to the 2010 Municipal election. There were no changes made at that time. Prior to the 2014 Municipal Election, Council approved including what had formerly been known as the Cold Springs Settlement Area in Otonabee-South Monaghan into Ashburnham (Ward 4).

Table 1 shows the change in population from census data. While elector growth has been slow, the population of Ward 3 from 2006 to 2016 has declined. A map of the existing five wards showing the 2016 population count is also attached as Appendix A.

**Table 1 – Ward Population Count**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>Rate of Increase (%) from 2006 to 2016</b>
<b>Otonabee Ward 1</b>	14305	14926	14995	5
<b>Monaghan Ward 2</b>	19309	20384	21316	9
<b>Town Ward 3</b>	12875	12569	12617	-2
<b>Ashburnham Ward 4</b>	14337	15307	15376	7
<b>Northcrest Ward 5</b>	14633	15512	16728	13
<b>TOTALS</b>	75459	78698	81032	7

\*Census Data from Statistics Canada

## Powers of the Municipal Act

In Ontario, the decision to undertake a ward boundary review is entirely at the discretion of each municipal council. Section 222 (1) of the **Municipal Act, 2001** allows a municipality to divide, re-divide the municipality into wards, or to dissolve the existing wards. The decision of Council is to be enacted by by-law, and public notice of the passing of the by-law is required. The by-law may be appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board, by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, or any person or any agency, within certain timelines. For a change to ward boundaries to be effective for the 2018 election, it is required that the by-law come into force prior to December 31, 2017.

## **The Guiding Principles for this Review**

In determining effective representation, Section 15 of the **Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, R.S.C. 1985** outlined that voter parity must be balanced with natural/physical boundaries and geographic communities of interest.

The Supreme Court decision of The Attorney General for Saskatchewan versus R. Carter Q.C., known as the Carter decision, further defined the term “effective representation”, in relation to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The ruling determined that additional factors also needed to be taken into consideration, such as: capacity to represent, size and shape of wards, and population growth within wards.

Staff will therefore complete the review under the following guiding principles:

- That effective representation be the overriding principle.
- That City Council remain at its present composition of Mayor and Ten Councillors.
- That any new ward boundaries be designed to accommodate growth and population shifts for at least 10 years.
- That any new ward boundaries should achieve a general balancing of populations between wards, with a maximum variance between any two wards not to exceed a 25 per cent threshold.
- That ward boundaries should attempt to provide effective representation of electors, protecting communities of interest and traditional neighbourhoods.
- That physical features such as natural boundaries and major transportation corridors be used to delineate ward boundaries.

## **Public Consultation**

Staff propose to solicit public feedback on changes to ward boundaries by hosting several town hall style meetings and the use of comment cards, made available at city facilities and online.

## **Next Steps**

Following public consultation, staff will report back to Council later in the summer with recommendations for any changes to the ward boundaries.

## **Summary**

Changes to ward elector and population counts indicate a need to review the current ward boundaries and consider changes to create similar representation in the wards for the 2018 Municipal Election.

Submitted by,

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City Clerk

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Attachment:  
Appendix A – Map: Overview of Current Ward Structure

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