


TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE


SUBJECT: VOTING DATES AND HOURS – ADVANCE/ALTERNATE VOTING OPPORTUNITIES AND REDUCED HOURS FOR RETIREMENT HOMES ON VOTING DAY - WARD SEVEN BY-ELECTION

WARD: 7

PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT: D. MCALPINE, CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AND COURT SERVICES, EXT. 4421

SUBMITTED BY: D. MCALPINE, CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AND COURT SERVICES 

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: P. ELLIOTT-SPENCER, MBA, CPA, CMA, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES 

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL: C. LADD, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER 

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That the draft by-law attached as Appendix "A" to Staff Report CLK016-15 to provide for:
 - a) Advance voting/alternate voting opportunities; and
 - b) Reduced hours of voting in institutions and retirement homes on Voting Dayfor the Ward Seven By-election (Monday, February 1, 2015), be passed.
2. That the General Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, February 1, 2016 be cancelled.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

3. The purpose of this staff report is to recommend advance voting opportunities and reduced hours of voting for retirement homes and institutions on Voting Day for the Ward Seven by-election. The recommendation also includes the cancellation of the City Council meeting on Monday, February 1, 2016 to allow staff in the Legislative and Court Services Department to appropriately support Voting Day for the Ward Seven by-election.
4. Voting Day for the Ward 7 by-election is scheduled for Monday, February 1st, 2016. The hours of voting are 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Historically, Barrie has provided advance voting dates during the week proceeding Voting Day in a regular municipal election and has also utilized reduced hours on Voting Day itself for retirement homes and institutions.

Advance Voting

5. Section 43 (1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996, S.O. 1996, c. 32* requires Council to pass a by-law establishing one or more dates for an advance vote and the hours during which voting places shall be open on the date(s). Different hours are permitted for different voting places.

Reduced Hours of Voting in Institutions and Retirement Homes

6. Section 45 (7) of the *Municipal Elections Act*, requires that a voting place be provided on Voting Day on the following premises:
 - a) An institution for the reception, treatment or vocational training of members or former members of the Canadian Forces;
 - b) An institution in which, on nomination day, 20 or more beds are occupied by persons who are disabled, chronically ill or infirm; and
 - c) A retirement home in which, on nomination day, 50 or more beds are occupied
7. Where the voting in such premises is solely for the use of the residents of the institution of retirement home, Council may pass a by-law to provide for reduced hours of voting in the locations.

ANALYSIS

8. The provision of advance voting dates, hours and locations allows eligible electors to exercise their democratic privilege by enabling them to cast their vote on alternative dates and in a location most convenient to them. Alternative/advance voting opportunities are provided in an attempt to increase voter turnout and convenience. Although in some countries, alternate/advance voting is only offered to electors who are unable to vote on Voting Day itself, in Canada, advance voting is available to all electors.
9. As part of the Ward Seven by-election, advance voting opportunities are being proposed at the Holly Community Centre on Saturday, January 23rd, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 26th, 2016 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Thursday, January 28th, 2016 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Any eligible Ward Seven elector would be able to cast their vote at the Holly Community Centre, on any voting day. The Holly Community Centre is accessible and will have accessible voting equipment.
10. Similar to past elections, residents of some long term care facilities and retirement homes will be able to vote in the convenience of their home. Staff have met with representatives of Roberta Lodge and Roberta Place as the only facilities in Ward Seven that meet the criteria in Section 45 (7) of the *Municipal Elections Act* to discuss the dates and times of voting as well as general information concerning the election process. The facilities will be open for a period of 2 hours for an advance/alternative voting opportunity, or until such time as an officer of the institution in conjunction with the election official, determine that the eligible electors have been provided an opportunity to vote. The specific dates for voting at the Roberta Lodge and Roberta Place have been established in consultation with representatives of the facility.
11. In the 2014 Municipal Election, an advance/alternative voting opportunity for the residents of complexes or buildings containing 75 dwelling units or greater was offered. Ward Seven does not contain any buildings or complexes with 75 dwelling units or greater.

12. The following is an overview of the advance/alternative voting opportunities proposed in the draft by-law:

Any Ward Seven Elector	
Holly Community Centre	Saturday, January 23, 2016 between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
	Tuesday, January 26, 2016 between 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
	Thursday, January 28, 2016 between 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Retirement Homes/Institutions - residents of the specific institution or retirement home	
Roberta Place and Roberta Lodge	Tuesday, January 26, 2016 between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., or until such time as an officer of the institution in conjunction with the election official, determine that the eligible electors have been provided an opportunity to vote

Reduced Hours of Voting in Institutions and Retirement Homes

13. As in past elections, reduced hours for retirement homes and institutions are being proposed on Voting Day itself. An additional hour of voting will be provided on Voting Day at the Roberta Lodge and Roberta Place (or until such time as an officer of the institution in conjunction with the election official, determine that the eligible electors have been provided an opportunity to vote). The representatives of the facilities have indicated that they believe one hour of voting on Voting Day itself, will be sufficient for the location.
14. A list of the voting dates and times will be made available to all candidates on or before December 21st, 2015.

Cancellation of February 1, 2015

15. As in past elections, it is recommended that the General Committee meeting scheduled for February 1, 2016 be cancelled. Insufficient resources are available to support both a Voting Day and a General Committee meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

16. There are no environmental matters related to the recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES

17. The following alternative is available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1

The dates and hours associated with the advance voting and reduced hours for voting in retirement homes and institutions could be altered.

This alternative is not recommended as staff have secured the use of facilities for the dates and hours identified in Appendix "A" to staff report CLK016-15.

FINANCIAL

18. At this time, funds have not been included in the 2016 Operating Budget for a by-election. However, funds are available in a reserve associated with the 2018 Municipal Election. Subject to the approval of future transfers to the election reserve as part of the 2016 and 2017 Business Plans, it is anticipated that there will be sufficient funds to cover the costs associated with both a by-election and the 2018 Municipal Election.

LINKAGE TO 2014-2018 STRATEGIC PLAN

28. The recommendation(s) included in this Staff Report support the following goal identified in the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan:

- Inclusive Community

29. The proposed by-election would ensure that the individual filling the vacancy for Councillor, Ward 7 would be selected by the eligible electors.

APPENDIX "A"

Draft By-law

A By-law of The Corporation of the City of Barrie to provide for advance voting and to provide for reduced hours of voting in institutions and retirement homes on Voting Day in the Ward Seven By-election.

WHEREAS, Section 43 (1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, S.O., 1996 provides that a municipal council shall pass a by-law establishing one or more dates for an advance vote, and the hours during which voting places shall be open on that date or dates;

AND WHEREAS, Section 46(3) of the Act provides that a municipal council may pass a by-law with respect to reduced voting hours in voting places in retirement homes or those institutions as defined in Section 45(7) of the said Act, where the voting place is only for the use of the residents;

AND WHEREAS, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Barrie adopted motion 15-G-XXX which provides for advance voting and reduced hours of voting in institutions and retirement homes on Voting Day in the Ward Seven By-election;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Barrie hereby enacts as follows:

1. **THAT** advance/alternative voting shall be held on the dates and hours specified in Schedule "A" attached hereto, with respect to the Ward Seven By-election to be held on Monday, February 1, 2016.
2. **THAT** reduced hours of voting in institutions and retirement homes shall be held on Voting Day, with respect to the Ward Seven By-election, Monday, February 1, 2016, as specified in Schedule "B" attached hereto.
3. **THAT** this by-law shall come into force and effect immediately upon the final passing thereof.

READ a first and second time this 23rd day of November, 2015.

READ a third time and finally passed this 23rd day of November, 2015.

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BARRIE

MAYOR – J. R. LEHMAN

CITY CLERK – DAWN A. MCALPINE

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NUMBER 2015-
ADVANCE/ALTERNATIVE VOTING

Any Ward Seven Elector	
Location	Date and Hours
Holly Community Centre	Saturday, January 23, 2016 between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
	Tuesday, January 26, 2016 between 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
	Thursday, January 28, 2016 between 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Retirement Homes/Institutions	
Residents of the specific institution or retirement home only	
Locations	Date and Hours
Roberta Place and Roberta Lodge	Tuesday, January 26, 2016 between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., or until such time as an officer of the institution in conjunction with the election official, determine that the eligible electors residing at the subject facility have been provided an opportunity to vote.

SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW NUMBER 2015-

**REDUCED HOURS OF VOTING FOR RETIREMENT HOMES AND INSTITUTIONS
ON VOTING DAY (MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016)**

Retirement Homes/Institutions

Residents of the specific institution or retirement home only

Between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. or until such time as an officer of the institution in conjunction with the election official, determine that the eligible electors residing at the subject facility have been provided an opportunity to vote