
TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION WITH TOWN OF INNISFIL

WARD: ALL

SUBMITTED BY: C. LADD, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That the Mayor be authorized to execute the proposed Memorandum of Cooperation with the Town of Innisfil identifying areas of opportunity for collaboration with our neighbouring municipality attached as Appendix "A" to Staff Report CAO001-17.

PURPOSE

2. There is much history between the City of Barrie and the Town of Innisfil and the intent of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) is to turn the page of our annexation history and begin a new relationship built on meaningful and effective collaboration that advance our shared interests.

ANALYSIS

3. The Town of Innisfil and the City of Barrie are both poised for significant growth and much of that growth will occur along our shared border. In the spirit of collaboration and in our mutual interest to ensure good growth, a set of common principles and areas for cooperation have been identified to advance the best interests of both municipalities in a productive and transparent manner.
4. As growth activity has begun in earnest in the south end of Barrie, there have been many occasions where staff have consulted and collaborated with our neighbours in Innisfil in regard to the servicing and transportation network along our common border, specifically roads and storm water management as well as the provision of hydro.
5. In addition to servicing, we have collaborated with Innisfil on other matters such as the provision of rail services and economic development as well as sharing information on broader initiatives that affect both municipalities such as the proposed GO Regional Express Rail service and Highway 400 expansion.
6. Given the extent of mutual interests between the two municipalities, the Mayors of both Barrie and Innisfil felt that there was merit in formalizing our working relationship to guide our efforts to achieve the best outcomes for our residents and businesses.
7. The MOC is not intended to be a binding contract, rather it sets out current and future joint opportunities under a set of principles that will guide our collaborations and work towards achieving our respective visions.

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

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

ALTERNATIVES

9. The following alternatives are available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1

General Committee could elect not to endorse the Memorandum of Cooperation.

While this alternative is available, it is not recommended. There has been an interest in working collectively with the Town of Innisfil and the Memorandum of Cooperation is intended to provide a concrete example of the positive approach taken to build a stronger relationship with our neighbour. A more formal arrangement for collaboration between the municipalities is beneficial given the extent of work that is currently occurring along the shared border.

FINANCIAL

10. There are no anticipated financial impacts due to the proposed MOC.

LINKAGE TO 2014-2018 STRATEGIC PLAN

11. The recommendation(s) included in this Staff Report are related to all the priorities identified in the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan.

APPENDIX "A"

Memorandum of Cooperation

This Memorandum of Cooperation is made this _____ day of May, 2017 between:



The Corporation of the City of Barrie
~ and ~
The Corporation of the Town of Innisfil



Recitals:

- Recognizing the over 20 kilometres of shared boundary between the municipalities;
- Acknowledging the historical relations between the municipalities, including cooperation but also annexation;
- Recognizing the strong relationship and common services that both municipalities share with the County of Simcoe;
- Considering the environmental, social and economic importance of Lake Simcoe to both municipalities;
- Desiring to establish a formal basis for cooperation that will enhance and strengthen the conduct of cooperative activities in areas of common interest and encourage the application of the results of such cooperation to their mutual economic and social benefit;
- Desiring to have a smooth transition from one municipality to the other, similar to the largely unnoticeable boundary between Newmarket and East Gwillimbury in the Region of York;
- Recognizing the common challenges of high growth and maximizing the quality of life for our residents;
- Desiring to bring jobs to our region, and recognizing that employment opportunities in either municipality will benefit our residents; and, Considering that transportation is a key success factor for economic development and that travel patterns between and through our municipalities are extensive and essential to manage growth;

Therefore, the Councils of Barrie and Innisfil are pleased to record their agreement to cooperate as follows:

1. **Grow** – Innisfil and Barrie will grow responsibly and in cooperation with one another, recognizing that prosperity for the region benefits all. Specifically,
 - a. *Land Use and Infrastructure Planning* – Community Strategic Plans, Official Plans, secondary plans, master plans (i.e. transportation, water and wastewater servicing, stormwater, trails, parks, library, fire, etc.), policies and implementation tools as they may affect common boundary areas, will reflect the spirit of cooperation to achieve strong integration to support smart and progressive communities, including smart growth that extends beyond current planning horizons understanding decisions made today can impact the future.
 - b. *Infrastructure Implementation* – The municipalities will seek out opportunities to collaborate on infrastructure construction, maintenance and operations, minimizing cost and disruption to residents. Moving forward, joint efforts to plan and maintain shared roads and rail corridors, as well as water and wastewater assets, will be the norm.

2. **Connect** – Barrie and Innisfil will seek out opportunities to connect our residents, businesses, organizations and visitors in all ways that are meaningful—physically, socially, culturally and digitally.
 - a. *Economic Development & Tourism* – Collaboration on economic development and tourism strategic plans, events, and attraction initiatives, among others, will create and sustain a vibrant business environment, leveraging our collective talents and assets (e.g. Lake Simcoe).
 - b. *Services* – Boundary lines and bureaucracy will not hamper the effective and efficient delivery of high quality connected services, such as recreation, active transportation, transit, fire services, police services and winter maintenance, among others.
 - c. *Technology & Innovation* – We will share technological and innovative advancements that strengthen our connections and support our quest to become smart cities by embracing the digital era.

3. **Sustain** – Innisfil and Barrie will actively embrace the principles of sustainability in all that they do together.
 - a. *Lake Simcoe* – The protection, preservation, and enhancement of Lake Simcoe and its shoreline are of paramount importance to both municipalities, and those objectives are strengthened by meaningful collaboration.
 - b. *Community Sustainability* – The municipalities will cooperate in their efforts to advance inclusive and engaged communities.

Mayor Jeffrey R. Lehman
City of Barrie

Mayor Gord Wauchope
Town of Innisfil