

Staff Memorandum



To	Mayor A. Nuttall and Members of Council
Subject	Boundary Expansion Legislation
Date	December 3, 2025
Ward	All
From	K. Oakley, P. Eng., Director of Boundary Adjustment Team
Executive Member Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer
CAO Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer

On November 25, 2025 the Province of Ontario introduced the Barrie-Oro-Medonte-Springwater Boundary Adjustment Act, 2025. If passed, [the legislation](#) would transfer approximately 1673 hectares (4132 acres) from the Townships of Oro-Medonte and Springwater into the City of Barrie to support long-term housing, employment, and infrastructure growth.

The introduction of legislation follows a 1.5 year facilitated process, by the Office of the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator (PLDF), as requested by Oro-Medonte. The PLDF facilitated discussions included Barrie, Springwater, Oro-Medonte and Simcoe County, as well as expert consultant reports considering land needs, infrastructure servicing requirements and environmental mapping and constraints.

Barrie City Council approved draft framework agreements with Springwater and Oro-Medonte on October 1, 2025. With the introduction of legislation those agreements no longer form the basis for the boundary expansion, however many of the provisions included in the draft framework agreements, are reflected in the legislation.

The following key details of the legislation are provided for Council.

1. The lands identified for annexation align with the mapping proposed within the framework agreements approved by Council on October 1, 2025. (<https://www.barrie.ca/media/14710>)

	Total annexed area (ha/acres)
Springwater	1216 ha/3004 ac
Oro-Medonte	457 ha/1129 ac
Total	1673 ha/4132 ac

2. The effective date will be the latter of January 1, 2026 or the date of Royal Assent.
3. A number of roads and associated assets would be transferred to the City of Barrie, and there are provisions for the transfer of information for the purposes of managing those assets.
4. The bill includes provisions for transfer of taxation, including details for implementation, sharing of information, and the phase in of any tax increases resulting from annexation over 20 years for agricultural lands and 5 years for all other land.
5. The majority of City of Barrie By-laws will be in effect in the annexed lands, with some exceptions to ensure continuity of Highway Traffic Act requirements and others.
6. The land will come with Official Plan and Zoning from the Townships and County, which will remain in effect until the City completes a land use planning exercise to replace those.
7. The Minister may make regulations to address certain issues associated with implementing the legislation, including compensation, asset transfer, ward boundary adjustment, zoning, and any transitional matters related to processes currently underway.
8. Regarding ward boundaries, staff anticipate extension of existing ward boundaries on the effective date, and updated ward boundaries for the purposes of the 2026 municipal election, aligned with the ward boundary review completed in 2025.
9. The [Province's media release](#) notes that the PLDF would facilitate discussions among the municipalities on the best way to implement the legislation, including potential financial compensation from the City of Barrie, if any.
10. The annexed lands do not include the block at the north end of Bayfield Street that had been considered for cross border servicing, nor does the legislation speak to this. Should the City and Springwater wish to enter into a cross border servicing arrangement that could form part of the discussions around compensation.

In anticipation that the bill may become law quite quickly, staff are planning for a January 1, 2026 effective date. Our focus is seamless service transition for impacted residents. A communications package is being prepared, and transition discussions are being held with staff at Springwater, Oro-Medonte and the County. Priority items like waste collection, winter control and impacts on taxation are expected to be of primary interest, but all service areas are being reviewed. More details will be shared as available. Staff are available to answer questions in the meantime.

Memo Author:

Kelly Oakley, Director of Boundary Adjustment Team

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Pending #: N/A