

AUGUST 2026

# Council Connect

Council Planning Council

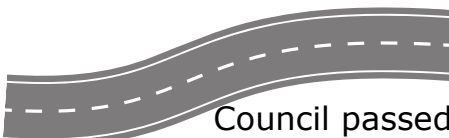
## Go Home Lake Well

The Township will proceed with engaging a qualified contractor to inspect and undertake necessary repairs to the Go Home Lake well, prior to handing ownership and responsibility over to the Go Home Lake Cottage Association. Repairs will not begin until the Cottage Association confirms their intent to assume care of the well.

The well sustained significant damage earlier this year, and has been out of commission since May.

The decision to transfer ownership and responsibility to the Cottage Association came following a report to Council from Director of Operations Mara Engel outlining the costs and liabilities associated with the Township retaining the well.

Go Home Lake Cottage Association will have until January, 2027 to take ownership of the well, otherwise it will be decommissioned.



## Iroquois Road Assumption

Council passed a by-law to formally assume ownership of Iroquois Road, resolving a historical discrepancy between legal ownership and maintenance.

In 2024, it was discovered that a portion of Iroquois Road had never been formally assumed, despite being maintained by the Township for decades. In 2025, Council directed staff to move forward with the required steps to assume to the road through by-law. Since then, staff have completed the required survey work, obtained property owner agreements, and worked with the Township's solicitor to prepare the assumption by-law for Council's approval.

Now that the by-law has been enacted, Iroquois Road will be registered as Township-owned and will form part of the Township's municipal road system.



Township of  
**Georgian Bay**  
MUSKOKA

## Newsletter Highlights

Rock Crushing

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2027 Budget Information

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Asset Management Plan

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Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments

*follow us*



## **Asset Management Plan**

Council heard the findings of the 2025 Asset Management Plan, including the current state of Township infrastructure, identified risks, strategic priorities, and options for moving forward into 2026 and beyond.

In a deputation at the August meeting of Council, Lisa Ellis of Dillon Consulting outlined the current infrastructure portfolio of the Township which includes 805 assets spread across 5 categories with a total replacement cost of \$132.4 million. Her report highlighted that while overall infrastructure remains serviceable, many assets are entering the later stages of their lifecycles and will require increased investment. Roads, buildings, and facilities were identified as the Township's largest long-term investment priorities.

Director of Finance/Treasurer, Jasvinder Rattigan, also spoke to the Asset Management Plan report, and presented Council with four investment options with varying degrees of financial commitment. Council voted to implement the option which will see a gradual annual infrastructure funding increase from approximately \$2.52 million in 2025 to approximately \$4.31 million by 2030. Director Rattigan explained that this option balances infrastructure renewal needs with taxpayer affordability.



## **Rock Crushing in Oak Bay**

Council approved a three-year extension to permit rock crushing in Oak Bay's "Summerside" development area on Golf Course Road in Port Severn.

The development's current Temporary Use By-law allowing for rock crushing ends on October 15, 2026. The extension, at Oak Bay's request, will allow for rock crushing on the lands until October 15, 2029.

The original resolution was amended by Council to include a requirement for a communications plan directed at residents of the community to keep them informed on any rock crushing activities.



## **Muskoka Compliance Audit Committee**

The Township of Georgian Bay will continue to participate in the joint Muskoka Compliance Audit Committee for the 2026 election and term of Council.

Every municipality is required to establish a Compliance Audit Committee per the Municipal Elections Act. The Committee is responsible for addressing compliance audit applications and campaign contribution limit matters in any of the participating municipalities.

Council approved the Muskoka Compliance Audit Committee 2026-2030 Terms of Reference and passed a by-law establishing and appointing members to the Committee.

## Georgian Bay Fire Establishing and Regulating By-law

Director of Fire and Emergency Services/Fire Chief, Chad Dowell, presented Council with his department's updated Establishing and Regulating By-law.



The By-law defines the composition, roles, duties, and services offered by the Georgian Bay Fire Department, and replaces the former 2019 Establishing and Regulating By-law. The update brings the Department up to current standards and regulations, integrates the Township's Community Risk Assessment, better reflects the Department's current operating realities, strengthens accountability, and supports long-term planning and future growth.

The Department's core services, stations, response areas, mutual aid agreements, and day-to-day operations remain unchanged.

The Establishing and Regulating By-law was adopted by Council. To read about the services offered by the Georgian Bay Fire and Emergency Services, [read the By-law on the Township's Document Center](#).

### 2027 Budget Planning

Council received a report for information on preparations and proposed timelines for the 2027 budget. A draft budget is expected to be tabled at the December 7 meeting of Council.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to participate in the process by completing the budget survey available on the [Township's Budget webpage](#).



## Summary of Legal Fees

Director of Finance/Treasurer, Jasvinder Rattigan, presented Council with a summary of legal fees from 2023 through June 30, 2026.

The review shows that \$265,000 has been spent on legal matters in 2026 so far, representing 92% of the total budget for the year. Director Rattigan highlighted that the increased legal costs identified in the report are primarily attributable to Council-directed decisions.

Councillors spoke to the need to be mindful of the costs associated with ensuring the legal protection of the municipality. Council accepted the report and approved an additional \$80,000 to cover legal costs associated with confidential Human Resources matters.

### Appointment of Building Officials

Council appointed RSM Building Consultants' staff as Building Officials, to be engaged on an as-needed basis to conduct Part 3 building inspections within the Township.

The Township has seen increasing Part 3 building projects, including industrial, commercial, institutional, and multi-residential developments requiring specialized expertise in inspections.

The appointment will allow the Building Department to continue conducting necessary inspections on Part 3 buildings while its own Building Official pursues the required qualifications.

Take the 2027

**BUDGET SURVEY!**

## By-laws Enacted

2026-058 - Appointment - RSM Building Consultants

2026-059 - Assumption of Iroquois Road

2026-060 - Establish and Regulate a Fire Department

2026-061 - Muskoka Compliance Audit Committee

2026-062 - Confirming Council August 10

2026-063 - SRA Closing (231 Wesley Road)

2026-064 - Closing (210 Birch Acres Drive)

2026-065 - Deeming (210 Birch Acres Drive)

2026-066 - Temporary Use - Rock Crushing (Summerside Oak Bay)

2026-067 - Confirming Planning Council August 11

## Upcoming Meetings

### Special Planning Council

Wednesday, August 26 at 9:00 a.m.

### Council

Monday, September 14 at 9:00 a.m.

### Planning Council

Tuesday, September 15 at 9:00 a.m.

### Committee of the Whole

Tuesday, September 15 following Planning Council

### Committee of Adjustment

Friday, September 18 at 10:00 a.m.

### Refresh MacTier Advisory Committee

Monday, September 28 at 3:00 p.m.

## Additional Residential Units and Source Water Protection

A public meeting was held at August's Planning Council to discuss Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments addressing Additional Residential Units, Source Water Protection, and housekeeping matters.

Township Planner, Shania Wonfor, joined by Planning student, Russell Scarrow, presented Council and the public with a presentation outlining the proposed updates. Wonfor noted that through the review of the Township's planning policies, staff identified several areas that were not current with provincial legislation and District of Muskoka policies.

Regarding Additional Residential Units, Wonfor explained that the Planning Act requires municipalities to permit up to three residential units on eligible urban residential lots. The proposed update would allow for up to three residential units per lot in urban centres and rural areas, while maintaining the prohibition of additional units on waterfront-designated lands.

Planning student, Russell Scarrow, presented Council with the proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments in regards to Source Water Protection. The proposed updates would align the policies with the Clean Water Act, Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan (GBLSSPP), and the District of Muskoka Official Plan, limiting the existing policy to the areas governed by the GBLSSPP. The amendments would also introduce new provisions aimed at protecting District of Muskoka and First Nations source water intakes.

The Housekeeping portion of the amendments are administrative in nature, correcting typographical errors in the Township's Zoning By-law, without changing the intent or effect of the By-law.

More information on the Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments can be found in the staff report included in [the August Planning Council Agenda](#).