

OCTOBER 2026

Council Connect

Council Planning Council

Additional Funding for Iroquois Road Assumption

Council approved up-to an additional \$50,000 to complete the formal assumption of Iroquois Road.

The funds will cover the legal costs for assuming the road, which are expected to be significantly higher than originally anticipated.

Iroquois Road is being assumed by the Township following the 2024 discovery that a portion of the road had not been formally assumed, despite being maintained by the Township for more than two decades.

The additional funds will come from the Working Fund Reserve.

Ontario Land Tribunal Request

Councillor Steven Predko brought forward a motion to support a resolution from the Town of Whitby asking the Province to review the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) and increase deference to municipalities' planning decisions.

Councillor Predko cited the need to take into account the nuance of individual municipalities when planning decisions end up in front of the OLT.

Council voted to support the Town of Whitby resolution, and directed staff to share the resolution with the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Town of Whitby, and all Ontario municipalities for consideration and support.



Township of
Georgian Bay
MUSKOKA

Newsletter Highlights

Teachings

Planning Policies Updated

follow us



'Teachings'



Mayor Peter Koetsier opened the October meeting of Council with a nod to the new art proudly hung in Council Chambers.

The Township held a formal unveiling of a reproduction of the painting 'Teachings' by late artist William Anthony Monague, on September 29. Monague was a member of the Beausoleil First Nation, growing up in Chimnissing and drawing much of his artistic inspiration from the natural environment familiar to those who spend time on Georgian Bay.

'Teachings' draws on many aspects of Anishinaabe teachings and culture with symbolism to be found in the turtle shell shoreline, the gathering in the tipi, the ripples in the water, and the loon with its baby.

Speaking to Council, staff, and those in attendance at Council, Mayor Koetsier said, "I wanted to share it with everyone as we begin this meeting as a reminder of, amongst other things, what I would call long-term values and perspective, and to try to do the best we can on that journey."

To read about 'Teachings' and its meaning, please see the Township-issued press release available at gbtownship.ca.

From left: Councillor Stephen Jarvis, Councillor Steven Predko, Kate Dymont, Mayor Peter Koetsier, Brenda St. Denis-Monague, and Councillor Brian Bocek pose with 'Teachings' at the unveiling held September 29, 2026.



By-laws Enacted

2026-072 - Building Inspector
Appointment (Bell)

2026-073 - Confirming Council
October 5, 2026

2026-074 - SRA Closing (27 Old
Tower Road)

2026-075 - SRA Closing (6123 Severn
River Shore)

2026-076 - Deeming (18342 & 18334
Georgian Bay Shore)

2026-077 - OPA No.32 (ARUs and
SWP)

2026-078 - ZBA (ARUs, SWP, &
Housekeeping)

2026-079 - ZBA Z26-13 (2 Island
1710 Georgian Bay)

2026-080 - Confirming Planning
Council October 6 2026

Upcoming Meetings

Inaugural Council

Monday, November 16 at 1:00 p.m.

Refresh MacTier Advisory Committee

Monday, November 23 at 10:00 a.m.

Council

Monday, December 7 at 9:00 a.m.

Planning Council

Tuesday, December 8 at 9:00 a.m.

Committee of the Whole

Tuesday, December 8 following
Planning Council

Additional Residential Units, Source Water Protection, and Housekeeping Updates

Planning Council voted to enact a Zoning By-law Amendment and an Official Plan Amendment that will allow certain properties to have additional residential units (ARUs), strengthen source water protection, and clean up wording and increase accessibility of the Zoning By-law (housekeeping).

The updates ensure the Township's planning policies align with current Provincial and District of Muskoka requirements. Planning staff hosted both a public open house in July, and a public meeting at Planning Council in August, receiving meaningful feedback from the community.

The changes mean properties will be able to have up to three residential units (a main dwelling, plus two additional units), providing more flexibility to homeowners seeking to create rental units, and opening up additional housing in the municipality. Current Township policies limit development to one additional residential unit per property.

Changes to source water protection policies bring the Township into alignment with provincial legislation and the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan, protecting municipal drinking water tightening certain planning requirements where the property is in close proximity to source water.

You can read more about the changes in the staff report included as part of the [October Planning Council Agenda](#).



**Voting runs from Wednesday, October 14 at 10:00 a.m. until
Monday, October 26 at 8:00 p.m.
For information visit gbtownship.ca/election.**