

Rideau Lakes Council and Ward Structure Review

Public Consultation Boards

August 27-28, 2016

Introduction

The Township of Rideau Lakes is reviewing its overall electoral structure.

The Terms of Reference set out the following issues for consideration:

- A. The size of Rideau Lakes' Council;
- B. The method by which members of Council are elected; and,
- C. The boundaries of Rideau Lakes' wards.

The review may lead to recommendations that could change the way you elect your Township Council.

Public consultation is an important part of this process.

This public consultation is designed to get your opinion on some of the concepts that could be considered.

Your input matters: the concepts presented here are only a starting point for discussion. What we hear from you today will be an important part of the recommendations put forward to Council in fall 2016.

Please take and complete a consultation booklet as you walk through this open house.

*Materials from this open house are available online at:
www.twprideaulakes.on.ca.*

About Rideau Lakes' Current Council Structure

Rideau Lakes has a Council of 10 members consisting of a Mayor and nine Councillors.

Wards 1 to 4 have two Councillors each. Ward 5 has one Councillor.

Rideau Lakes' current ward boundaries reflect the boundaries of its pre-amalgamation municipalities.

Significant population growth (seasonal or permanent) is not expected.

Ward	Seasonal Residents	Permanent Residents	Total
1 – Bastard and South Burgess	2,577	2,323	4,900
2 – South Elmsley	1,451	3,600	5,051
3 – South Crosby	2,712	1,667	4,379
4 – North Crosby	2,288	1,229	3,517
5 – Newboro	144	237	381
TOTAL	9,172	9,056	18,228

Rideau Lakes' Population by Ward (Source: MPAC, 2016)

A. How Many Elected Representatives Should We Have on Council?

Background

A municipality may set the size of its Council, within certain rules set by Ontario law:

- The minimum allowable size of a municipal council is five (a Mayor and four Councillors).

For reference, in the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville:

- Four municipalities have a council of seven; and,
- Five municipalities have a council of five.

A municipality may consider a variety of factors in determining the size of its Council, including:

- Councillor workload;
- Cost; and,
- Community characteristics.

Questions

Below are five preliminary concepts for the size of Rideau Lakes' Council:

	New Council Size	How We Get There
a)	11 on Council (Mayor + 10 Councillors)	Increase by one councillor
b)	10 on Council (Mayor + 9 Councillors)	Status quo (no change)
c)	9 on Council (Mayor + 8 Councillors)	Reduce by one Council position
d)	7 on Council (Mayor + 6 Councillors)	Reduce by three Council positions
e)	5 on Council (Mayor + 4 Councillors)	Reduce by five Council positions

- Which concept do you prefer? Why?
- What do you think is the optimal size for Rideau Lakes' Council?

B. How Should Your Councillors be Elected?

Background

Municipalities may choose one of three ways to elect Councillors, each of which is used across Ontario by comparable municipalities:

Method of Election	Description
a) Elect Councillors by wards (status quo)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillors are elected to represent a part of the Township, called a “ward.”• Rideau Lakes is currently divided into five wards.
b) Elect Councillors “at-large”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Just like the Mayor, Councillors may be elected by voters across the entire municipality.• If the current 9 Councillor Council were elected “at large,” each voter would vote for nine Councillor candidates.
c) Elect Councillors by a combination of at-large and wards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Municipalities may use a combination of at-large and ward systems.• Some municipalities elect a Deputy Mayor at-large in addition to ward-based Councillors.

A municipality may consider a variety of factors in determining how its Councillors are elected, including:

- **Councillor and citizen perspective:** a ward system may encourage a “local” perspective and an at-large system may encourage a “municipality-wide” perspective;
- **Councillor accessibility:** a ward system may create a relationship between a Councillor and that Councillor’s ward residents; and,
- **Community characteristics :** a ward system may ensure that certain communities or areas are represented on Council.

Questions

- Which concept do you prefer for the election of Councillors?
- Are you in favour of having a Councillor elected at-large becoming the Deputy Mayor?
- Please share any additional comments on how Councillors should be elected.

C. What Should Rideau Lakes' Ward Structure Look Like?

Background

Municipalities may set the size, shape and number of their wards, as long as they deliver “effective representation.”

This concept is flexible. It begins with the idea that the number of people living in each ward should be similar. However, to deliver “effective representation” boundaries can be adjusted to also consider:

- Geography;
- Community characteristics (rural v. town, for example);
- Population growth; and,
- Man-made features that link or divide communities (such as major roads, for example).

While there are no set rules, a population variance of +/-25% among wards is considered acceptable.

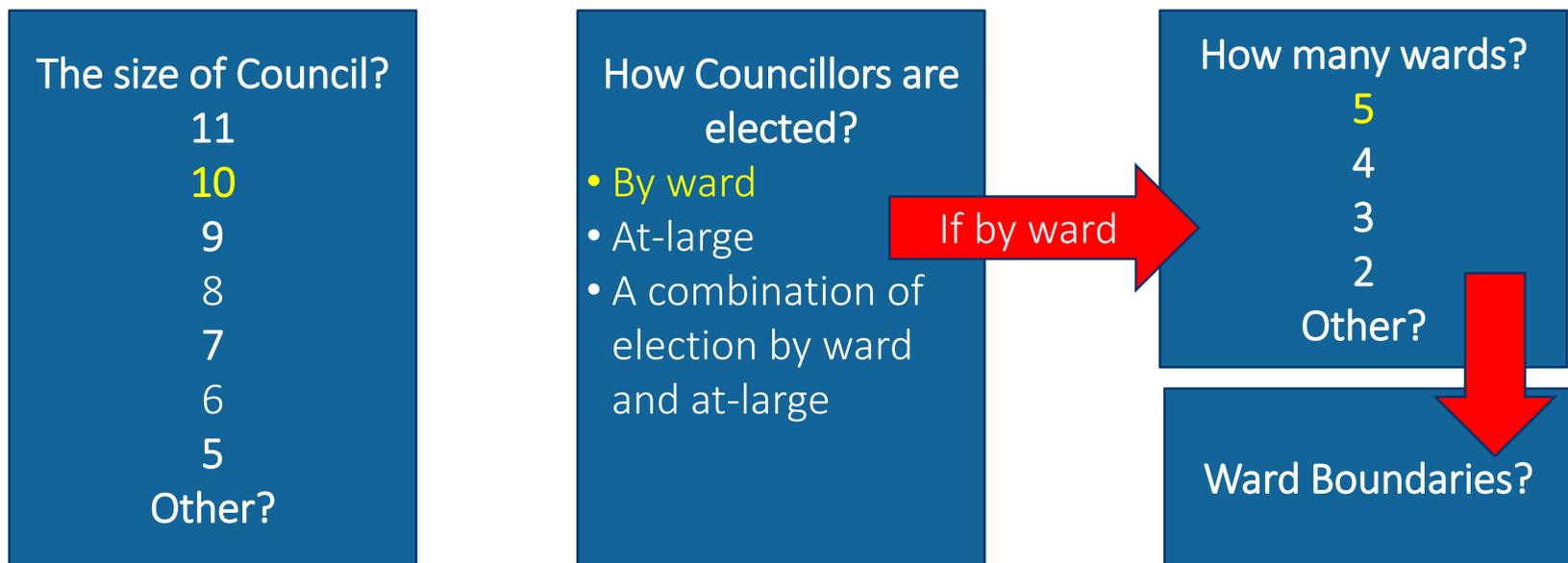
Questions

- One approach is to design wards so that they are close to equal in population. Another approach is to design wards to preserve Rideau Lakes' existing ward boundaries. The two approaches could also be mixed. Which is closer to your point of view?
 - a) Achieve equal population
 - b) Preserve existing ward boundaries
 - c) A balance of equal population and existing ward boundaries
 - d) Other
- What do you think should be the focus in designing wards?
- Are there any natural or man-made features that would make logical ward boundaries?
- One concept is to maintain Rideau Lakes' existing ward boundaries. Another concept is to combine Ward 4 (North Crosby) and Ward 5 (Newboro). Which concept do you prefer?
 - a) Maintain wards as they are
 - b) Combine Ward 4 (North Crosby) and Ward 5 (Newboro)
 - c) Other

D. Putting the Concepts Together

Background

Putting the concepts together, there are four broad groups of choices under consideration through the Council and Ward Structure Review: the size of Council, how Councillors are elected (in wards or at-large), the number of wards and ward boundaries. These choices can be combined in a wide variety of ways:



Yellow = Status quo

Questions

Here are seven preliminary concepts for Rideau Lakes' council and ward structure. These preliminary concepts are for discussion purposes only.

Concept	Council Size	Wards	Councillors per Ward	Councillors At-large	Mayor	How we Get There
a)	10	5	2 and 1	0	1	Status quo (no change)
b)	9	4	2	0	1	Reduce by one Council position and one ward
c)	7	5	1	1	1	Shift to one Councillor per ward, add one at-large Council position
d)	7	4	1	2	1	Reduce by one ward, shift to one Councillor per ward, add two at-large Council positions
e)	6	5	1	0	1	Shift to one Councillor per ward
f)	5	3	1	1	1	Reduce by four Council positions, reduce by two wards, add one at-large Council position
g)	5	0	0	4	1	Reduce by four Council positions, elect all Councillors at-large

- Which concept do you most prefer? Least prefer? Why?
- What do you think Rideau Lakes' council and ward structure should look like?