



Rideau Lakes Council and Ward Structure Review

Public Consultation Booklet

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 survey is designed to get your opinion on some of the concepts that may be considered.

Your input matters: the concepts referred to in this survey are only a starting point for discussion. The final report will be based in part on the results of this consultation. The final report is expected in fall 2016.

Additional materials are available online at: www.twprideaulakes.on.ca.

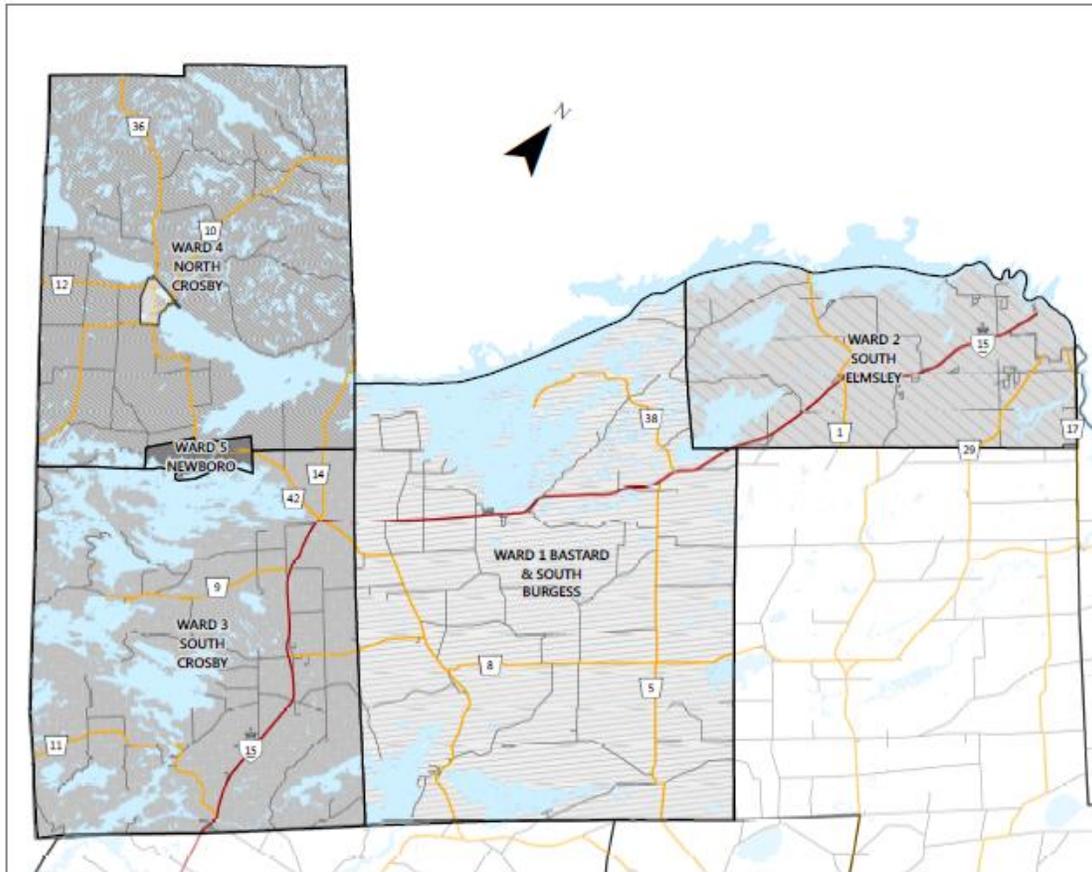
For more information please contact: boundaryreview@twprideaulakes.on.ca.

About Rideau Lakes' Current Council Structure

Rideau Lakes has a Council of 10 members consisting of a Mayor and nine Councillors. The wards and their populations are set out below. Wards 1 to 4 have two Councillors each. Ward 5 has one Councillor. 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)



Rideau Lakes' Current Ward Boundaries

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

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

Concept	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)	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

1. Which concept do you prefer (circle one)?

- a) 11 on Council (Mayor + 10 Councillors)
- b) 10 on Council (Mayor + 9 Councillors)
- c) 9 on Council (Mayor + 8 Councillors)
- d) 7 on Council (Mayor + 6 Councillors)
- e) 5 on Council (Mayor + 4 Councillors)
- f) Other

2. Please share any additional comments you may have on the size of Council.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to provide additional comments on the size of the Council.

B. How Should Your Councillors be Elected?

Background

- Every eligible voter in the Township is entitled to vote for the Mayor.
- Municipalities may choose one of three ways to elect Councillors, each of which is used across Ontario by municipalities comparable to Rideau Lakes:

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 nine 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

3. Which concept do you prefer for the election of Councillors? (circle one)

- a) Election by wards (status quo)
- b) Election at-large
- c) A combination of election by wards and at-large
- d) Don't know/No opinion

4. Are you in favour of having a Councillor elected at large becoming the Deputy Mayor? (circle one)

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Don't know/No opinion

5. Please share any additional comments on how councillors should be elected.

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

Background

- Rideau Lakes is currently divided into five wards. The five wards represent Rideau Lakes’ five pre-amalgamation municipalities.
- 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 “hard and fast” rules, a population variance of +/-25% among wards is considered acceptable.

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

Questions

6. 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? (circle one)

- a) Achieve equal population
- b) Preserve existing ward boundaries
- c) A balance of population parity and existing ward boundaries
- d) Other

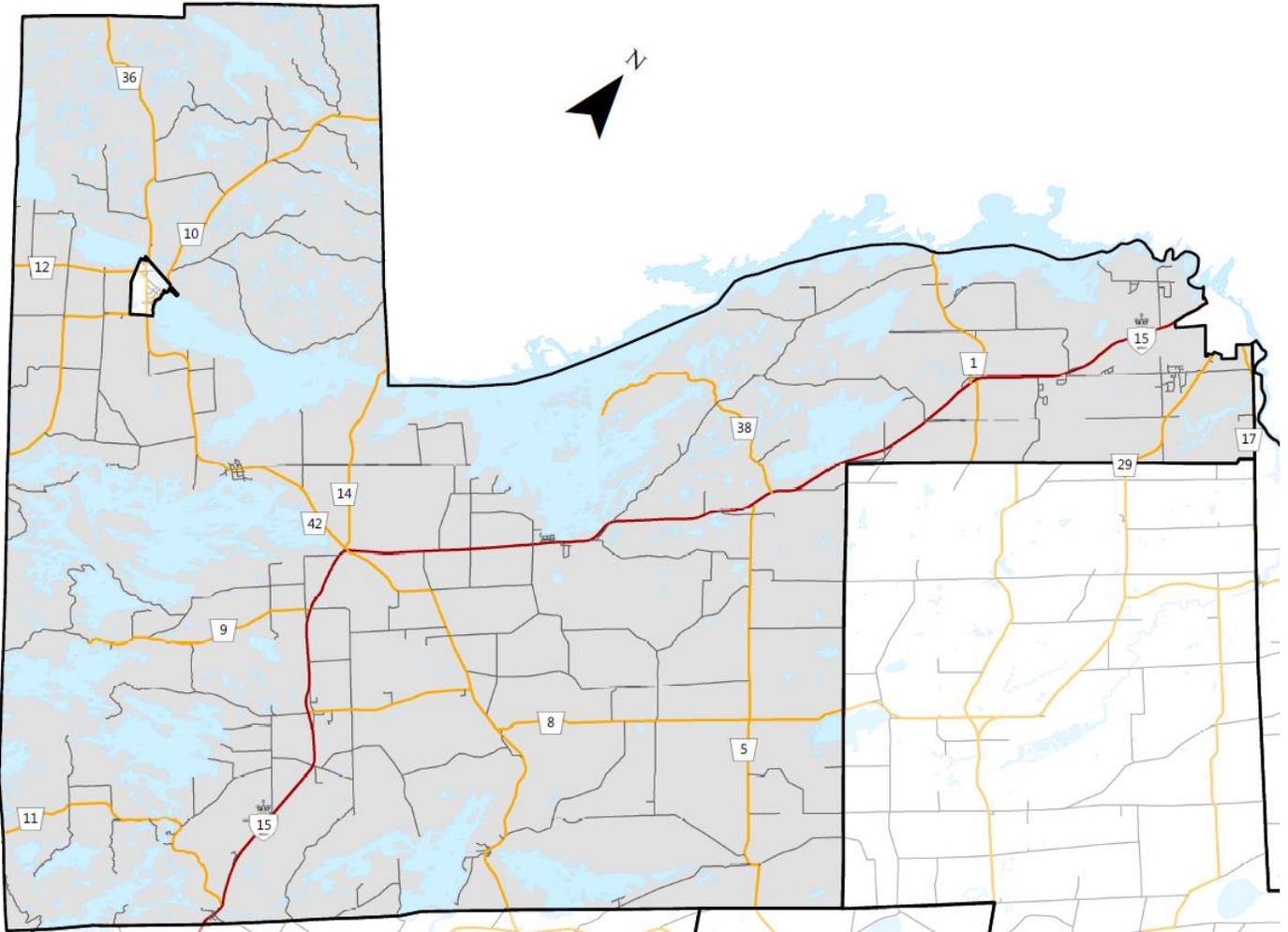
7. If you answered “other,” what do you think should be the focus in designing wards?

8. One preliminary ward boundary concept is to maintain Rideau Lakes’ existing ward boundaries. Another preliminary concept is to combine Ward 4 (North Crosby) and Ward 5 (Newboro). Which concept do you prefer (circle one)?

- a) Maintain wards as they are
- b) Combine Ward 4 (North Crosby) and Ward 5 (Newboro)
- c) Other

9. Are there any natural or man-made features that would make logical ward boundaries?

10. The map below shows Rideau Lakes. Please feel free to draw where you think the ward boundaries should be.

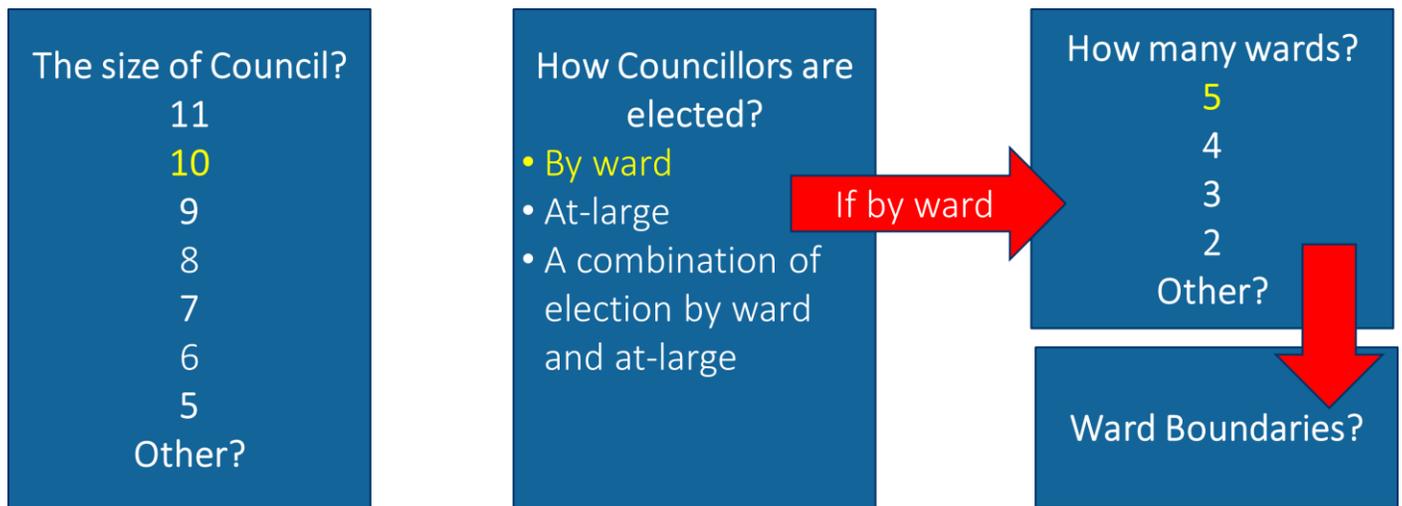


11. Please share any additional comments on Rideau Lakes' ward boundaries.

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

As you can see from the large number of choices, there are dozens of different ways to organize Rideau Lakes' council and ward structure.

Questions

Here are seven preliminary concepts for Rideau Lakes' council and ward structure. The preliminary concepts presented here are only a starting point for discussion.

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

12. Which concept do you most prefer (circle one)?

- a) Status Quo (10 person Council, 5 wards, no at-large)
- b) 9 person Council, 4 wards, 2 Councillor per ward, no Councillors at-large
- c) 7 person Council, 5 wards, 1 Councillor per ward, 1 Councillor at-large
- d) 7 person Council, 4 wards, 1 Councillor per ward, 2 Councillors at-large
- e) 6 person Council, 5 wards, 1 Councillor per ward, no at-large
- f) 5 person Council, 3 wards, 1 Councillor per ward, 1 Councillor at-large
- g) 5 person Council, no wards, 4 Councillors at-large
- h) Other

13. Which concept do you least prefer (circle one)?

- a) Status Quo (10 person Council, 5 wards, no at-large)
- b) 9 person Council, 4 wards, 2 Councillor per ward, no Councillors at-large
- c) 7 person Council, 5 wards, 1 Councillor per ward, 1 Councillor at-large
- d) 7 person Council, 4 wards, 1 Councillor per ward, 2 Councillors at-large
- e) 6 person Council, 5 wards, 1 Councillor per ward, no at-large
- f) 5 person Council, 3 wards, 1 Councillor per ward, 1 Councillor at-large
- g) 5 person Council, no wards, 4 Councillors at-large
- h) Other

14. Please feel free to offer an alternative concept for Rideau Lakes' council and ward structure or share any additional thoughts.

For statistical purposes, please provide:

15. Your ward (circle one):

- a) Ward 1 – Bastard and South Burgess
- b) Ward 2 – South Elmsley
- c) Ward 3 - South Crosby
- d) Ward 4 – North Crosby
- e) Ward 5 – Newboro

16. Your postal code: _____

Thank you for completing this survey!

Your input and the input of others will help inform the final report to Township Council in fall 2016. That report will include a range of options for consideration by Council. There will be a further opportunity for public input at that time.

Notes