



# Mayor's Year End Review

Council Meeting

Monday, December 18, 2023

**owen**  
**sound**  
where you *want* to live

# First Year of First Term of Council



# Financial Position



- Council's goal of growing our tax base has continued.
- In July, City Council approved a five-year capital plan.

# 2023 BMA Study

Orangeville	\$ 1,813	mid
Timmins	\$ 1,836	mid
Ottawa	\$ 1,846	mid
Owen Sound	\$ 1,850	mid
Burlington	\$ 1,850	mid
Huntsville	\$ 1,858	mid
Guelph-Eramosa	\$ 1,868	mid
Guelph	\$ 1,882	mid
Fort Erie	\$ 1,883	mid
Middlesex Centre	\$ 1,898	mid
Oakville	\$ 1,899	mid
Thunder Bay	\$ 1,904	mid
Greater Sudbury	\$ 1,906	mid

- 2023 Net Municipal Levy per Capita: Owen Sound is in the mid-range

# Service Review

- City Staff developed a Service Review Priority Opportunity Action Plan.
- 49 actions will achieve direct and indirect savings of approximately \$2 million.



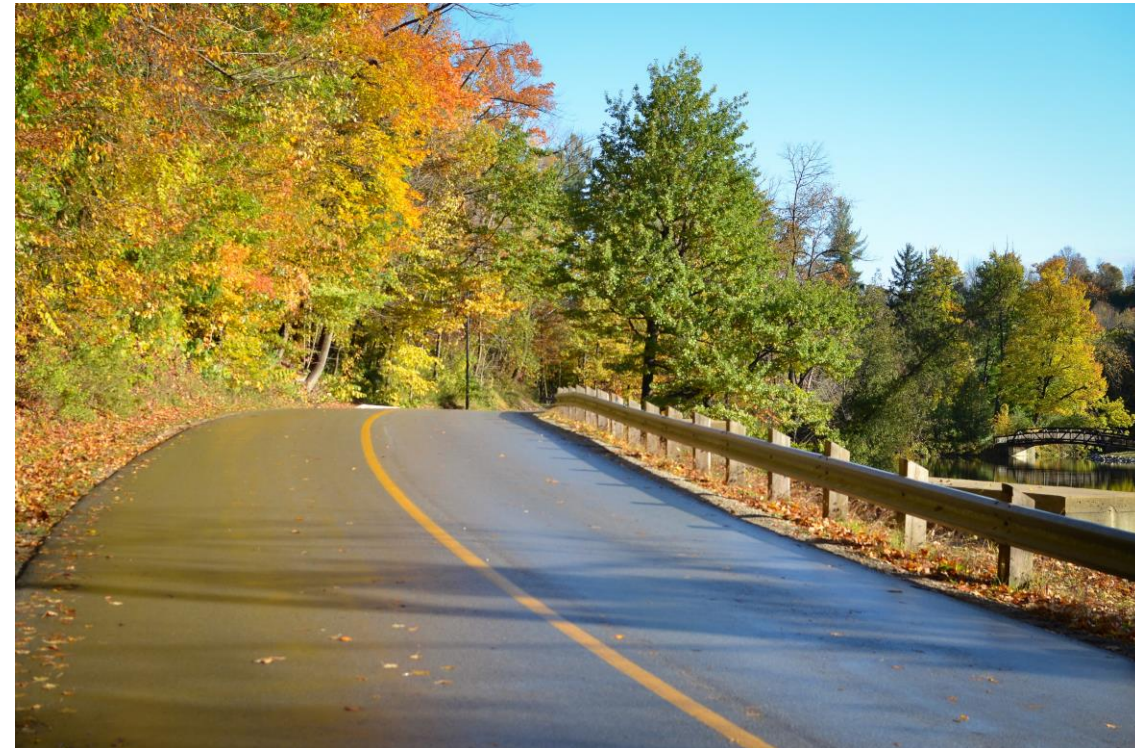
# Short-Term Rentals



- City Council approved the Short-term Licensing By-law that will come into effect March 1, 2024.

# Strategic Planning

- Strategic Plan Refresh, 2021-2023:
  - 89 per cent of the Key Results are complete
- Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee was created to develop a Strategic Plan to outline what the community envisions for its future up to 2050



# 2023 Physician Recruitment Update

- Collaboration with Grey & Bruce Counties to promote the region as a place physicians want to work and live.
  - Met with Minister of Health at ROMA 2023.
- In 2023, two new physicians were successfully recruited to Owen Sound.
- Future possibility of working with medical isotopes in the area.





# Neighbouring Collaboration/Non-Taxation Revenue

- Owen Sound partnered with Meaford and Georgian Bluffs on the Leaf & Yard Waste Site.
- The City looks forward to working with the Owen Sound Chamber of Commerce on developing the oversight of the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT).



# Challenges and Outpouring of Community Support



Image credit: Rob Gowan, The Sun Times



# Hockey Day in Canada 2023 & HockeyFest

- More than 8 million viewers tuned in nationally on Saturday, January 21 for Hockey Day, broadcast from Harrison Park.
- A surplus of \$20,000 was invested with Community Foundation Grey Bruce.
- HockeyFest (November 17-18) was a partnership between Owen Sound Girls Hockey, local schools, and the City with support from University of Waterloo and York University.



# Indigenous Reconciliation

- The City officially renamed Kelso Beach at Nawash Park.
- The Métis flag was raised at the Community flagpole for National Indigenous History Month.
- Council and staff participated in the first National Indigenous Veterans Day ceremony hosted by the Gichi-Name Wiikwedong Reconciliation Garden Committee.



# Economic Development

- The Hon. Filomena Tassi and dignitaries met at City Hall for a Community Economic Development Roundtable.
- The City joined the Grey-Bruce Hydrogen Hub and the Canadian Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association (CHFCA).
- The Southwestern Ontario Isotope Coalition officially launched, as a public-private partnership between the City, the NII, and the CNIC.



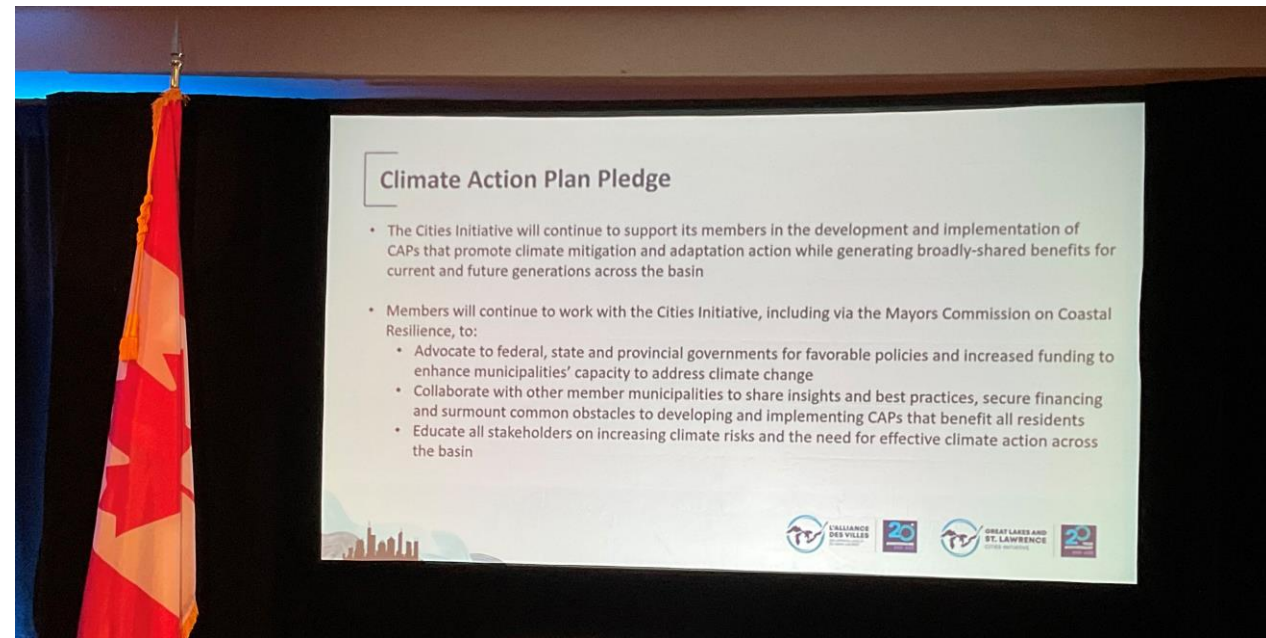
## Additional Highlights from the Year:

- Creation of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Strategy.
- New transit buses became more accessible, and the City is piloting an affordable monthly bus pass.
- Owen Sound firefighter Joe Forbes won gold at the Regional Firefit Championship.
- The City hired Owen Sound's first female firefighter.
- The City's drinking water achieved a perfect score for the second year running.



# Additional Highlights from the Year:

- Council approved the Climate Action Strategy.
- Attended Great Lakes Conference in Chicago.
- Tom Thomson Art Gallery's attendance increased 30 per cent from last year.
- The Library increased its membership to 10,682 with 149,721 visits.
- The Rotary Club hosted the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RCMP Musical Ride.



## Additional Highlights from the Year:



- The River District welcomed 12 new businesses and the Hottest Street Sale hosted 134 vendors.
- Building Department:
  - 335 building permits
  - 81 new residential units
  - \$30,790,641 year-to-date construction value
- Clerks issued 66 business licences.
- The Wellness & Recovery Centre is set to open January 29, 2024.
- Mayor attended 275 meetings and events this year.
- Senior staff each docketed 150 - 200+ hours of additional time for Council & Committee meetings.