



Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review

Municipality of Trent Hills

Interim Report

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Table of Contents

	Page
1. Background.....	1
1.1 Phase 1: Council Composition.....	1
1.2 Current Structure of Trent Hills Council	1
1.3 Considerations for this Review	2
2. Potential Directions for the Structure of Council in the Municipality of Trent Hills.....	6
2.1 The Selection of the Deputy Mayor.....	6
2.2 The Composition of Council.....	9
2.3 Ward System or an At-Large System?.....	13
2.4 Number of Wards (District Magnitude).....	15
2.5 Establishing Ward Boundaries: Principles	18
3. Next Steps.....	21



1. Background

1.1 Phase 1: Council Composition

Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. (Watson), in association with Dr. Robert J. Williams, hereafter referred to as the Consultant Team, was retained by the Municipality of Trent Hills to conduct a comprehensive Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review (the Review).

The primary purpose of the study is to prepare Trent Hills Council to make decisions on:

- whether to change the way the Deputy Mayor is selected;
- whether to change the composition of Council; and
- whether to maintain the existing ward structure or to adopt an alternative arrangement, or to adopt an alternative arrangement, including dissolving the wards in favour of electing all members of Council by general vote.

The first phase of the Review will address the two initial decisions; if wards are to be used to elect the Trent Hills Council, a second phase of the Review will propose boundaries that ensure that the wards constitute an equitable and effective electoral arrangement.

1.2 Current Structure of Trent Hills Council

The Trent Hills municipal council is comprised of seven members, including the Mayor and six Councillors, elected in three wards that follow the boundaries of the three pre-amalgamation municipalities. One of the Councillors is appointed by Council to serve as Deputy Mayor.

The ward system in Trent Hills is not typical since the wards each elect a different number of Councillors: Ward 1 (the former Municipality of Campbellford-Seymour) elects three, Ward 2 (the former Township of Percy) elects two and Ward 3 (the former Village of Hastings) elects one.

Given that the system of representation was established about twenty years ago through a Ministerial Restructuring Order and given that it was based on the pre-amalgamation municipalities, it is timely to step back to consider the viability of this



arrangement today. If there is a reluctance to increase the number of municipal officials in Trent Hills, any modifications to the present system, for example to align Council representation with the distribution of population, would require an adjustment in the wards, either in terms of the representation attached to each ward or the number and design of the wards themselves.

It is the responsibility of the Consultant Team to help move this review process forward. To address these questions thoroughly and systematically, it is helpful to understand what is open to change and what is not.

The *Municipal Act, 2001*, establishes that the Council of a “local municipality” must consist of “a minimum of five members, one of whom shall be the head of council” (s. 217 (1) 1) and that the head of council (the Mayor) “shall be elected by general vote (s. 217 (1) 3). Furthermore, the “members, other than the head of council, shall be elected by general vote or wards or by any combination of general vote and wards” (s. 217 (1) 4).

From that starting point, it is possible to design a number of different alternatives to determine the composition of Trent Hills Council, including the Deputy Mayor. To do so, the review requires a series of choices that lead to particular alternative configurations for representation in Trent Hills.

1.3 Considerations for this Review

There are essentially up to four “layers” of inter-related decisions for Council to make that may be summarized as:

1. Confirm the method of selection for the position of Deputy Mayor;
2. Agree on the size of Council beginning in 2022 (what the *Municipal Act, 2001* calls the “composition” of Council);
- 3a. Decide whether to retain a ward system or to dissolve the wards in favour of electing all members of Council by general vote (that is, at-large);
- 3b. If wards are to be used, to determine the number of wards; and



4. If wards are to be used, to initiate a review of the boundaries to ensure that the wards constitute an equitable and effective electoral arrangement.

If wards are to be dissolved, the fourth consideration is unnecessary.

The direction of the Review is presented in Figure 2, which visualizes this series of decisions. Building on a Discussion Paper released in late January 2020,¹ the purpose of this Interim Report is to report on the feedback received from the first round of consultation and to focus on the key decisions that Trent Hills Council needs to address. While public input provides valuable insight into the topics being considered in the Review, the Consultant Team does not rely on it exclusively. Public input should be considered by Council in conjunction with professional expertise and experience, guided by best practices, to make its decisions about the future composition of Trent Hills Council.

A more detailed explanation of the separate decisions and some of the implications associated with each of them are provided in the Discussion Paper and will not be repeated here. Public input/feedback received from residents of Trent Hills during the initial phase of public consultation, however, is included (see Figure 1). In total, about 120 responses to the survey questionnaire were submitted either on-line or on paper as well as a small number of additional comments. Note that approximately half of all responses came from Ward 3.

In the light of comments made in some of the survey responses, it is also important to underline four points.

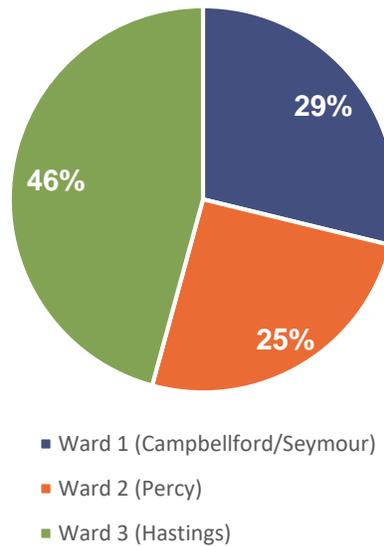
- At present, Trent Hills Council already includes a Deputy Mayor who is appointed for a two-year term by Council. The decision being addressed here is not whether to create such a position but whether the method of identifying the Deputy Mayor will be changed (an option supported by 56% of survey respondents – see part 2.1 below) and whether the position would be in addition to the present six Councillors – a separate decision for Council to make (an option supported by 36% of survey respondents – see part 2.2 below). A

¹ The Discussion Paper and public information materials related to the Review are available at https://www.trenthills.ca/en/municipal-office/ward-boundary-council-composition-review.aspx?_mid_=48590



decision to elect the Deputy Mayor at-large also means that individual would serve for the entire four-year term of Council, not for a two-year term.

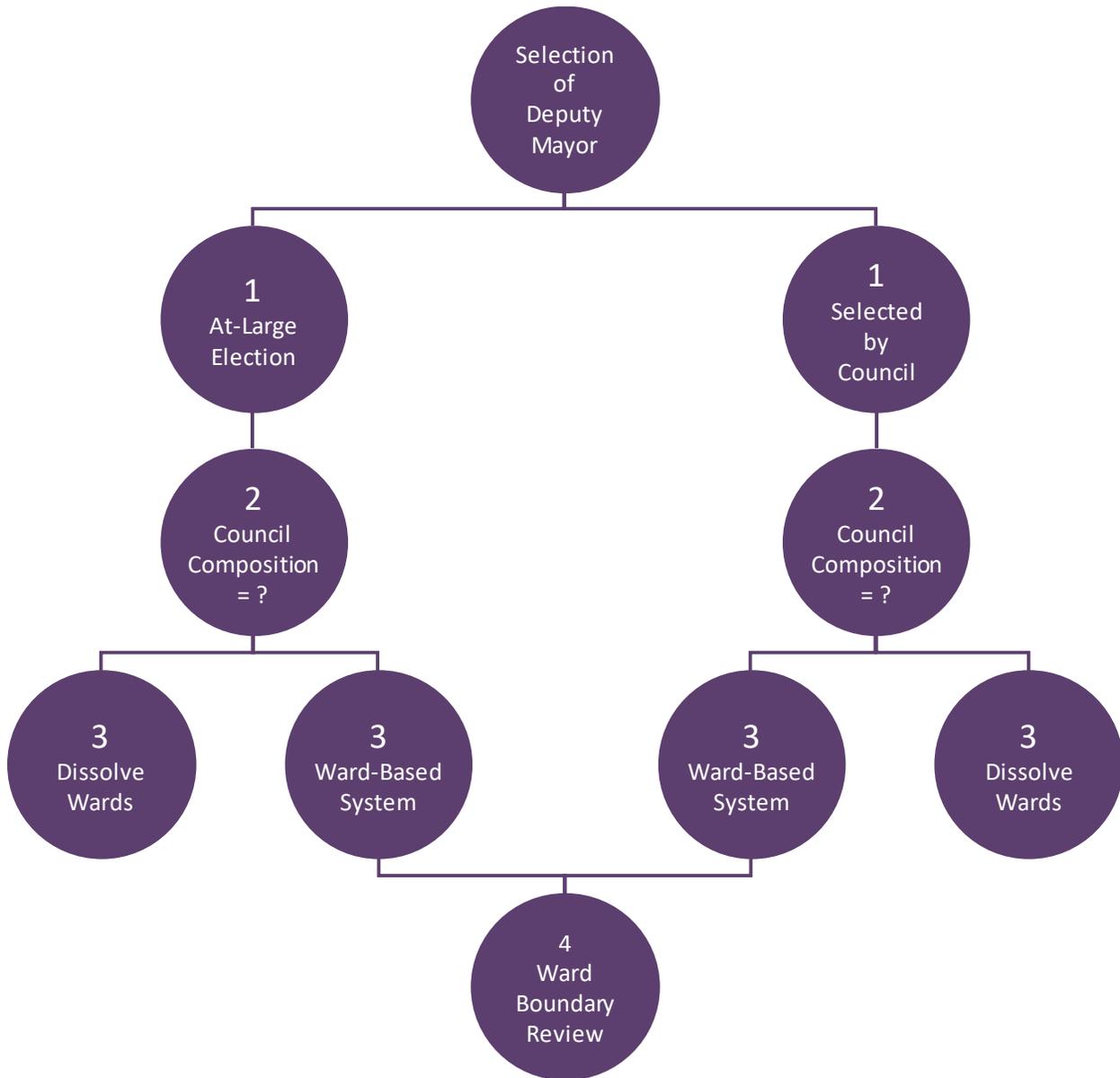
Figure 1: Distribution of Survey Responses by Ward



- The *Municipal Act, 2001*, section 268, authorizes a Council to appoint one of its members as an alternate member of the upper-tier council (that is, the County Council), to act when its representative (in the case of Trent Hills, the Mayor) is unable to attend a meeting of the upper-tier council for any reason. Since the section also specifies that the local Municipality is not authorized to appoint more than one alternate member during the term of council, Trent Hills Council passed a motion to appoint the position of Deputy Mayor as its alternate (not a named member of Council) to attend County of Northumberland Council meetings when the Mayor is unable to attend.
- Changing the method of identifying the Deputy Mayor would not affect the possible role for the Deputy Mayor on County Council, nor for other duties performed by the Deputy Mayor such as exercising signing authority in the absence of the Mayor.



Figure 2: Four “Layers” of Decisions



- The Mayor of Trent Hills is paid \$35,989 in 2020 and receives additional remuneration as a member of County Council. A Councillor in Trent Hills is paid \$20,989 per year; the Deputy Mayor is paid an additional \$5,000 (that is, \$10,000 less than the Mayor). A change in the way the Deputy Mayor is chosen has no bearing on the compensation level for that office nor on the overall compensation budget for Council.



- Holding a separate election for the position of Deputy Mayor does not incur an additional cost to the Municipality. The *Municipal Elections Act* specifies that municipal elections will be conducted every 4 years, and the Clerk of the Municipality is responsible for conducting the election. The inclusion of the Deputy Mayor as an elected position during the municipal election process would not increase the required resources, complexity or costs of conducting the municipal election. The inclusion of the Deputy Mayor position on the ballot would involve identifying the position to be elected and listing the candidates that have been nominated, no different than the process for the Mayor or Councillor positions.

The next section summarizes each of the alternatives before Council and some of the implications for the system of representation in Trent Hills. The topics are aligned with the “layers” of decision noted above but need not be addressed in that order by Council.

2. Potential Directions for the Structure of Council in the Municipality of Trent Hills

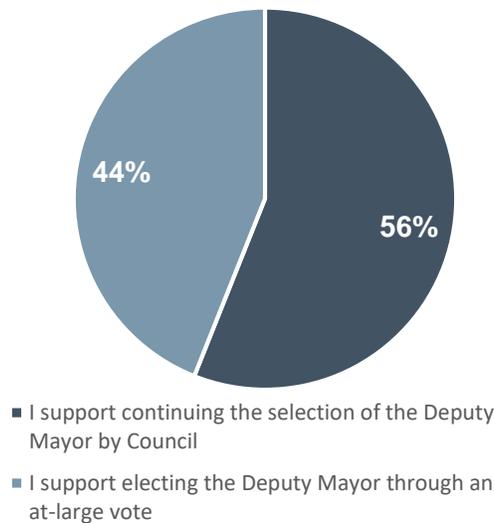
2.1 The Selection of the Deputy Mayor

One decision involves determining whether Council will select the Deputy Mayor from among the six ward Councillors (the present method) or whether electors will determine the Deputy Mayor through an at-large election beginning in 2022. The Discussion Paper (pages 5 to 7) sets out information on the role and selection of a Deputy Mayor in Ontario, Northumberland County and Trent Hills, as well as a number of implications and points of view that can be posed to support the selection of the Deputy Mayor by Council or by general vote. At present, five municipalities in Northumberland County elect the Deputy Mayor at-large.

Those who responded to the survey questionnaire were divided in their support for the two options: 56% supported the present system of selecting the Deputy Mayor by Council and 44% supported moving to an at-large election.



Figure 3: Distribution of Survey Responses on the Method of Selecting the Deputy Mayor



Those who endorsed the selection of the Deputy Mayor by Council (the present method) offered a variety of comments that can be grouped around three themes. Examples are:

(a) Why change now?

- “This has worked for the past 20 years so no need to change.”
- “It works. The members of council know each other’s strengths and weaknesses and, in my opinion, they are more than capable of making an informed and impartial decision as to who should act on the Mayor’s behalf.”
- “I really don’t feel there needs to be a new position created.”

(b) The present system favours those with experience

- “The Deputy Mayor should have past or current Council experience.”
- “In our area, it is a difficult task to find skilled, intelligent people to run for our municipal government. To open a new category on its own makes us stand the risk of someone going in by acclamation, without the proper skills or background or we run the risk of losing someone who could have been a valuable councillor.”



- “Campaigns and popularity contests do not work. Let the best person for the job be chosen by the other best people for the job.”

(c) The role played by the Deputy Mayor is limited

- “The Deputy Mayor does not play a functional role in Trent Hills aside from temporarily filling in for Mayor.”
- “It seems to me that having someone on council fill this role makes sense, as it seems to be a part-time role and this person has already been elected. I don't see that the role of deputy mayor is a full-time position, so it would not make sense to elect a separate person to fill this role.”
- “Directly electing a deputy mayor through an at-large vote will...politicize a position which until now has been largely ceremonial and/or redundant in a municipality of only 12,500 residents.”

Respondents who supported moving to an at-large election for the position of Deputy Mayor provided reasons for their preference. Examples can also be grouped around themes:

(a) Consistency

- “I think the residents should have an opportunity to elect the Deputy Mayor like any other position in council.”
- “Since the Mayor is elected at-large, the Deputy should be as well.”
- “Officials should be elected not appointed.”

(b) Democracy

- “The overall decision shouldn't be up to only 5 people. It should include everyone who lives here.”
- “It's far more democratic than being picked by your friends. It eliminates the "clique" approach.”
- “It is the taxpayers who should decide!”

(c) Perspective

- “I believe that by having the Deputy Mayor campaign for votes, that person will have to see the entire municipality, and therefore develop a better understanding of the municipality as a whole. Having the Deputy



Mayor selected by Council lends itself to bias for the area which the selected Council member represents, even if it is unintentional.”

- “Having the current system of 7 elected officials decide who should be Deputy-Mayor is not a democratic process and perhaps does not represent what the citizens would choose given the opportunity.”
- “To ensure consistency and transparency in this very important democratic process.”

Based on the feedback received from the public consultation, there appears to be a preference for retaining the selection of the Deputy Mayor by Council, although there are legitimate contrary views.

2.2 The Composition of Council

The *Municipal Act, 2001* gives a Council the authority to determine the overall size of Council (s. 217). The composition of Trent Hills Council has stood at seven since amalgamation, including a Mayor and six Councillors, one of whom also serves as Deputy Mayor.

If Council decides that the Deputy Mayor should be determined by general vote (that is, by creating a separate elective office), Council would then need to confirm whether the Deputy Mayor becomes an additional member of Council (taking the number to eight) or whether the number of Councillors is reduced from six to five to retain a seven-member Council. Even if Council confirms that the Deputy Mayor should continue to be selected by Council, it is possible that the number of Councillors could be changed. Some comparative information on the composition of Councils in Northumberland County is found in the Discussion Paper (pages 8 to 9).

Two of the questions on the public survey addressed the composition of Council. One question asked respondents generally about whether the size of Council should continue at seven members, be reduced or be increased. The responses can be summarized in the following chart (Figure 4).

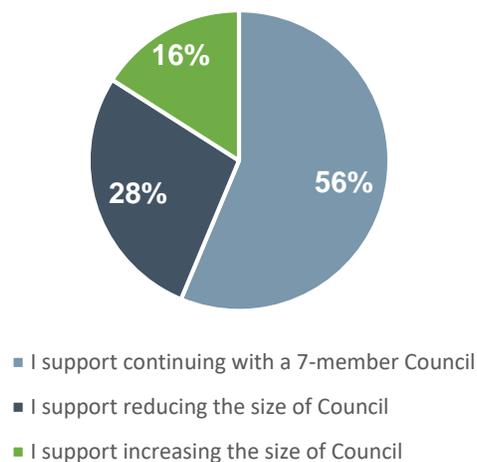
Examples of the reasons behind the preference to maintain the present composition of Council can be grouped under three headings:



(a) Familiarity

- “I support continuing with a 7-member Council because it is something that we know works well currently.”
- “It seems to work (why fix what isn't broken?).”
- “It has worked in the past and should continue to work in the future.”

Figure 4: Distribution of Survey Responses on a Seven-member Council



(b) “It suits our size”

- “This is a good size for Trent Hills. I think that is enough to run our Municipality.”
- “I think 7 is a good number for the size of our municipality.”
- “A 7-member Council is consistent with other municipalities of a similar size and geography.”

(c) Decision-Making

- “it is my belief that a council that is too large might hinder making correct and concise decisions in the future.”
- “Based on the population of the Municipality, five is too few and nine is too many. Seven allows for a healthy debate on important issues.”
- “Less would mean they were stretched too thin.”



Respondents who supported reducing the size of Council almost uniformly referred to cost:

- “Less cost to the taxpayers.”
- “Here is a rare opportunity to actually trim the municipal budget without adversely affecting residents.”
- “Currently the fact that there are too many councillors is evident as not all of them are engaged in the decision-making process and rely on a couple of councillors to answer questions and provide a vision for the municipality. Therefore, the municipality is currently operating with a fewer member council anyway but paying for seven.”

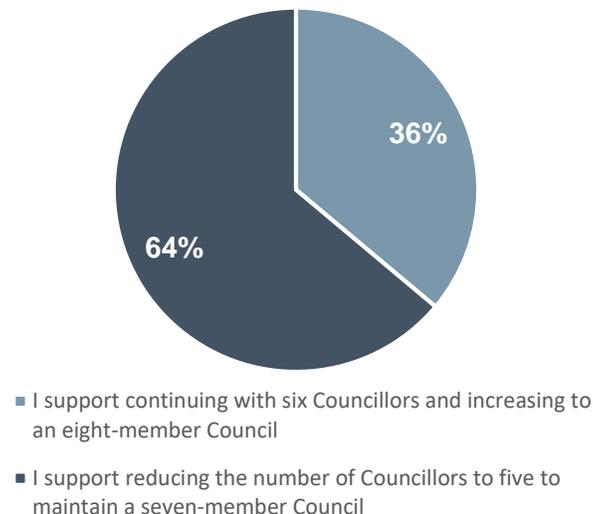
Those who indicated support for more Councilors usually tied the idea into enhancing representation:

- “More council members can/will better represent a diverse population.”
- “More opinions are the fabric of democracy, pretty simple.”
- “Our community is growing and we need to ensure fair representation.”
- “This would give more access to the general public to someone who may hear their concerns and/or work on their behalf.”

The second question was specifically linked a possible change in the composition of Council based on a decision to elect the Deputy Mayor in an at-large election: if Council makes that decision, “should this position be in addition to the present six Councillors or should the number of Councillors be reduced to five?”



Figure 5: Distribution of Survey Responses on an Eight-member Council



The comments submitted in relation to this question repeat the main messages associated with the previous one. Those who supported an eight-member Council observed, for example, that it would contribute to stronger representation, fewer councillors “probably would have a negative impact on Ward 3’s representation” and “I don’t think we should change the number of Councillors because we have a wide area to cover and any less would make it harder for the Councillors to know the people of their wards.”

Supporters of keeping a seven-member council were often concerned about the possibility of tie votes in an eight-member council or simply did not support increasing the size of council for reasons of cost.

Based on the feedback received from the public consultation, there appears to be a strong preference for retaining a seven-member Council, although there are legitimate contrary views.

The Consultant Team recommends that Council include a confirmation of the composition of Council for 2022 as part of its decision about the selection format for the Deputy Mayor.



2.3 Ward System or an At-Large System?

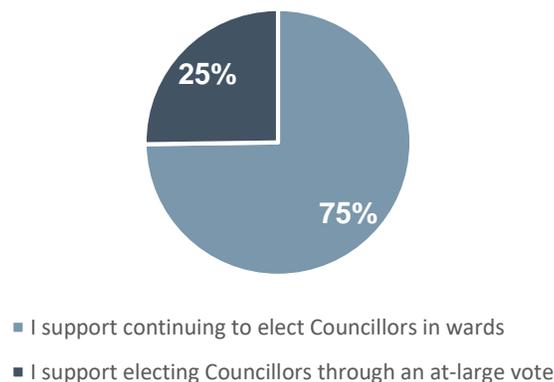
The *Municipal Act, 2001*, s. 222 (1) authorizes a municipality “to divide or redivide the municipality into wards or to dissolve the existing wards” through a by-law and s. 217 (1) (4) provides that “other than the head of council, members shall be elected by general vote or wards or by any combination of general vote and wards.” As noted in the Discussion Paper (pages 10 to 12), however, there are no conditions or constraints imposed by the Province to help formulate a local decision to adopt one electoral system or another.

Six members of Trent Hills Council have been elected in wards since amalgamation, but Council has the authority to retain a ward system or to dissolve it. The attributes of the two systems (and comparative information about other Northumberland County municipalities) is found in the Discussion Paper (pages 9 to 12).

Despite the fact that five municipalities in Northumberland County elect Councillors at-large, the public feedback received through the public consultation strongly supported retaining a ward system in Trent Hills by a ratio of 3:1 (75% to 25%) (see Figure 6).

Those in favour of election in wards place high value on councillors’ local knowledge and think that election by ward will allow councillors to better represent local interests.

Figure 6: Distribution of Survey Responses on Continuing to Elect Councillors by Ward





For example:

- “Unlike the Mayor and Deputy Mayor who I believe should represent the entire municipality, I think we need our Councillors to be more familiar with individual areas of the municipality and be able to represent the different needs of the areas.”
- “We have people who we can go to that can represents the concerns of our wards.”
- “This is the only method which would ensure residents in each of the wards are represented and have a voice at the table.”

They also believe that an at-large election would allow larger population centres to dominate governance through the election of local officials. For example:

- The local concerns of rural residents will be pushed to the bottom in favour of residents in larger urban areas. If councillors are elected at large, they will favour the urban areas due to the larger concentration of voters when elections are held.
- The largest voter base is located in Campbellford. It is far less likely that representatives will be elected from other wards – providing less local representation for matters concerning these population centres.

At-large election of councillors is preferred by those who want Trent Hills to act as a united entity. They see ward distinctions as divisive and think that Trent Hills is a small Municipality where it would not be difficult to get one’s voice heard, even by a representative living in another town.

Responses supporting this view include:

- “Trent Hills is now ONE municipality and should grow up to face this fact. The current ward system creates and sustains an adversarial nature to local issues.”
- “Everyone should be able to vote for anyone within Trent Hills.”
- “We all live in Trent Hills. Why shouldn’t everyone also have the say who represents us on council.”

With respect to those who support an at-large election for Councillors in Trent Hills, it is the professional opinion of the Consultant Team that that wards provide identifiable



representation for the various communities of interest in Trent Hills and should be retained.

This is the third “level” of the Review and the first to address the ward system itself. If Council opts to dissolve wards in Trent Hills in favour of an at-large system, the Council Composition Review is concluded and no Ward Boundary Review (W.B.R.) is necessary. If Council chooses to retain a ward system, further decisions remain to be addressed whatever Council determines about the way the Deputy Mayor is to be selected.

2.4 Number of Wards (District Magnitude)

The present ward system in Trent Hills is not symmetrical: there are both a single-member ward and two multi-member wards within the same system. This arrangement was established through the Municipal Restructuring Order that created the Municipality: it appears to be premised on the assumption that “representation by population” could be achieved without having to actually draw new wards simply by giving additional representation on Council to two of the three wards.

It also essentially perpetuated the idea that the three pre-amalgamation component parts of Trent Hills should continue to be the foundation on which Council representation can be constructed. This determination presumably helped to sell the amalgamation to local residents in 2000 but blurs the distinction between formal “historical” boundaries (for example between Percy and Seymour) and boundaries designed strictly for electoral purposes. The significance attached to the “historical” boundaries has gradually receded over time but has not disappeared since they are preserved in the election system. The difference is that electoral boundaries are necessarily dynamic creations: that is, electoral boundaries have a limited lifespan since they are intended to reflect the distribution of population within the Municipality at a given time. When the population changes, electoral boundaries should follow suit.

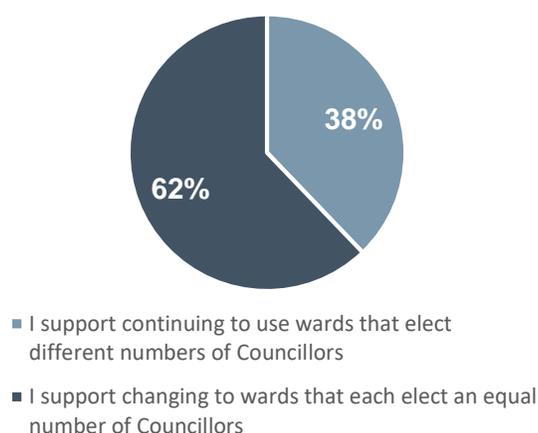
Twenty years after amalgamation, many Trent Hills residents seem to believe that this model (three wards that maintain historical boundaries with a 3-2-1 distribution of seats) is the only possible way to elect councillors in the Municipality. That view seems to suggest that familiarity is enough reason to keep this system.



One important consequence, however, is that this arrangement gives individual residents who happen to live in a certain part of the Municipality the opportunity to vote for three Councillors and those who live in some other parts two or even one. It is difficult to justify this blatant inequality when there are other models of representation that are both conventional and more equitable, namely one in which each ward elects an equal number of representatives.

A survey question asked residents to indicate whether they support continuing to use wards that elect different numbers of Councillors or would support changing to wards that each elect an equal number of Councillors. By a ratio of approximately 3:2, respondents supported a change to wards that each elect an equal number of Councillors (see Figure 7).

Figure 7: Distribution of Survey Responses
On the Allocation of Councillors by Ward



Some of those who support continuing with different numbers of Councillors per ward seem to base their assessment primarily on familiarity:

- “I feel the system is working as it is and to attempt changing ward boundaries would result in no improvement in overall resident satisfaction – even if the resulting changes were more equitable.”
- “I support continuing with different numbers of Councillors per ward but only based on the needs of each ward. This is assuming that the current system best reflects each ward’s needs.”



- The attendance at the meeting last night indicated to me that most of our TH people are very happy with the way things are right now.”

Other comments support the current arrangement since they seem to regard the pre-amalgamation municipal boundaries as untouchable or indisputable:

- “Some wards are a lot larger than others it’s only fair to base it on population”
- “Some areas are smaller than others so this stands to reason. I’m not for moving the ward boundary to suit some.”
- “I do not believe that Campbellford/Seymour is ready (or has even considered) giving up one councillor, or a part of their ward . . . I cannot imagine the reaction [in Hastings] when a new Ward is presented to them that is very different from what they have now.”

A system of “symmetrical” representation (where each elector is entitled to vote for the same number of councillors) was supported by some residents on the basis of equity:

- “Every voter in the municipality should have equal representation on council. It’s the only fair way.”
- “Each ward would have the same representation on all matters.”
- “In order for council to ensure fair decisions are made that effect each ward. An equal number of councillors would ensure each ward has the same equal say and vote in the decisions of council.”

For others, “symmetrical” representation is a way to overcome what is seen as a bias in the present distribution of seats:

- “Having three wards, along historical lines, keeps this community divided. We cannot afford this as we move forward.”
- “There would not be the thinking that one ward got something because they had more reps on council.”
- “The current system is strongly skewed toward ward 1, and historic decisions of council have represented this imbalance.”

Implicit in this perspective is the recognition that there are other communities of interest in Trent Hills beyond those captured in the pre-amalgamation units:



- “While the current system is more appropriate based on population, it does not consider the varied, and often competing, needs of the varied and geographically separated population centres.”
- “Each ward should have an equal voice at the council table. The current imbalance favours the urban area.”
- “I support increasing the number of wards and re-drawing ward boundaries to provide better representation to geographic areas.”

While there is a preference in the responses to this question for changing to wards that each elect an equal number of Councillors, everyone should be aware that this outcome cannot be achieved by simply reallocating the seats assigned to the present wards for the simple reason that the population of those wards is not (see Figure 8) – and never has been – “balanced.” If each ward is to elect the same number of councillors – whether there are two, three or some other number of wards – the wards themselves need to be reasonably similar in population. The only way to achieve this in Trent Hills is to “redivide” the wards rather than shuffle the Council seats within the historical pre-amalgamation municipal boundaries that persist in the guise of ward boundaries.

Figure 8: Trent Hills Population Distribution by Ward 2020

Ward #	Permanent Population ¹	Seasonal Population	Total Population
Ward 1	8,720	2,728	11,448
Ward 2	3,763	644	4,407
Ward 3	1,497	90	1,587
Total	13,980	3,462	17,442

¹ Includes Census Undercount of approximately 3.5%.

2.5 Establishing Ward Boundaries: Principles

If Trent Hills Council determines that councillors will continue to be elected in wards (Part 2.3 above), it has the authority under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, s. 222 (1) to “redivide” the Municipality for this purpose. To that end, the Consultant Team will proceed with the second Phase of the study (a Ward Boundary Review, or W.B.R.) to provide recommendations to Council on options for a “redivision.”

¹ Includes Census undercount of approximately 3.5%



A set of Guiding Principles “to be considered” by the Consultant Team in a W.B.R. in Trent Hills were adopted by Council in May 2019 (see the Discussion Paper, pages 14 to 16). They are:

- representation by population;
- protection of communities of interest;
- recognition of natural or man-made barriers or dividers as boundaries;
- recognition of density (ward with a few people over a large geographic area equals ward with large population in a small geographic area);
- recognition of areas of growth/decline; and
- ward boundaries that accommodate growth/shifts in population for at least 3 municipal elections (3 terms at 4 years per term = 12 years).

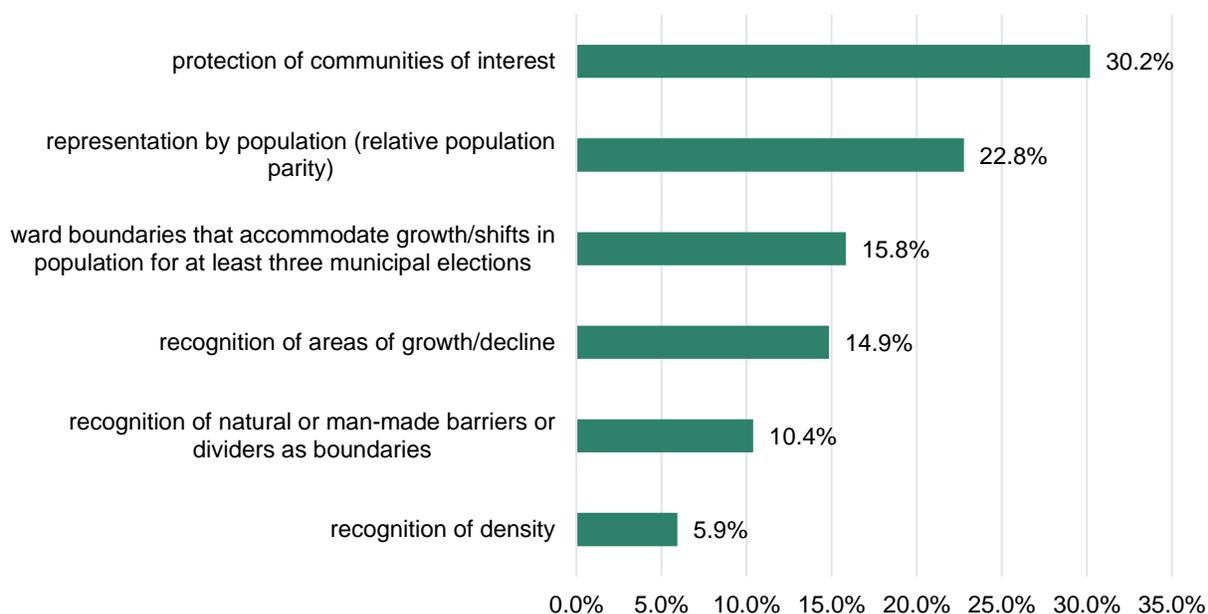
No ward system design can uniformly meet all the Guiding Principles since some criteria may work at cross-purposes to one another. As well, the priority attached to certain principles makes some designs more desirable in the eyes of different observers.

The first step in a W.B.R. is to assess the present wards in terms of the Guiding Principles to see whether the arrangement provides “effective representation” to the inhabitants of the Municipality. If the evidence suggests that it does, the W.B.R. can confirm that no change is necessary, and Council could defend a decision to retain the status quo. If it does not meet the Guiding Principles, however, it is the goal of the W.B.R. Consultant Team to formulate alternatives so that the community and Council can make an informed choice among them.

In preparation for a possible W.B.R. in Trent Hills, a question designed to better understand the priorities attached to the six Guiding Principles was included in the public feedback survey. The question asked respondents to indicate the two principles that they believe should be given the greatest priority in the design of wards in Trent Hills (see Figure 9).



Figure 9: Distribution of Survey Responses
On the Priority Attached to Principles



The responses from the survey largely reflect the perspectives already noted in relation to the earlier questions about council composition: for example, many of those who feel they are currently underrepresented (primarily in Ward 3 and rural areas) feel that the community of interest principle should be the priority. Others see a system based on that principle as “opening the door to self-interest.” Relative population parity is endorsed as the way to give each ward “the same number of councillors to vote on Trent Hills” and as a “constitutional principle” although achieving it may be difficult because of the population distribution in Trent Hills.

Quite correctly, one respondent noted that “the principles of ‘representation by population’ and ‘protection of communities of interest’ are in direct opposition – the needs of a smaller population center like Hastings will often be forgotten/overlooked in a popular vote.” Some preliminary options would work to maximize the protection of communities of interest and others to achieve representation by population. Other options may put more weight on other principles such as natural features to help achieve the major principles.

The important point is that these divergent preferences will be taken into account in the design of preliminary options for a redesigned ward system in Trent Hills that will be



taken to public information session in May 2020. It is unlikely that everyone will agree with the way the Municipality could be “redivided” – and indeed some respondents to the survey did not believe that there should be wards or that the present wards should be changed – but the next step is to assist the community to make an informed choice about a suitable structure for future council elections.

3. Next Steps

The final phase of the Review is designed to inform the community and members of Council about alternative ward systems, one of which will be selected by Council and implemented for the 2022 municipal election.

One crucial step in the Review is to seek insights into the community’s views on preliminary ward options prepared by the Consultant Team in the light of its professional experiences, best practices in other Ontario municipalities and precedents drawn from decisions made by the Ontario Municipal Board (now the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal) on electoral by-laws. This phase includes a public information session run by the Consultant Team in Campbellford on May 12 and through a survey that will be open to all residents during May 2020. Information about the Review and the survey will be available for viewing on the municipal website trenthills.ca/Ward_Boundary_Review throughout the Review.

The Consultant Team will assess this public feedback and undertake further technical analysis on the options to prepare a final report to Council as soon as possible. Following Council’s decision, a by-law will be prepared to implement one of the options.