Municipality of Trent Hills Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review

FINAL REPORT
September 15, 2020

Dr. Robert Williams + Jack Ammendolia

Project Summary

The study began in October of 2019. Watson & Associates in association with Dr. Robert Williams was awarded the contract.

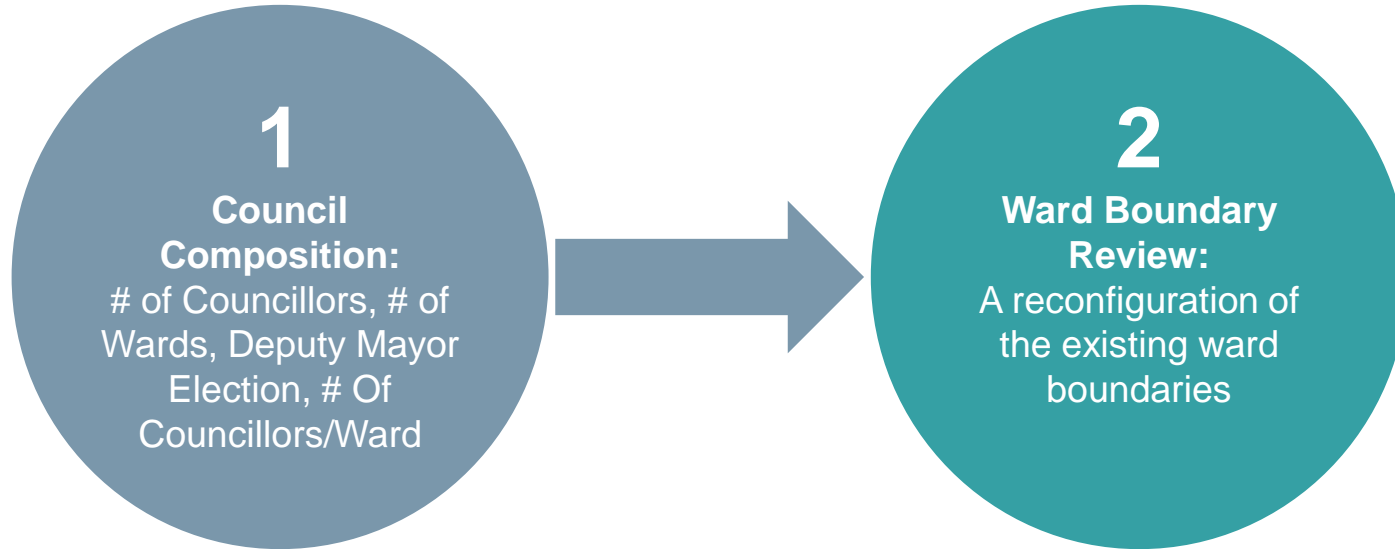|	
➤	Research/Information Gathering/Interviews with Council & Staff
➤	Review of existing Council composition and existing wards
➤	2 surveys released to the public
➤	3 public information sessions (1 in-person & 2 virtual)
➤	Dedicated webpage with informational resources
➤	2 Council meetings

2 Phase Study

1

Council Composition:
# of Councillors, # of Wards, Deputy Mayor Election, # Of Councillors/Ward

2

Ward Boundary Review:
A reconfiguration of the existing ward boundaries

March 17, 2020 – Council Approved 5 Resolutions

Commencing with the Municipal Election in 2022:

1. Continue to elect Councillors in a ward system

2. Size of Council remains at seven

3. Deputy mayor elected at-large

4. Each ward will elect one Councillor

5. Ward boundary options will be based on five wards

Preliminary Options

Based on the Council resolutions the consultant team prepared a total of **4 ward boundary options** for consideration.

➢ The preliminary options considered a variety of factors such as;

 ✓ Present and future population distribution,

 ✓ The historical nature of the communities,

 ✓ The topography and geography of the area,

 ✓ Community feedback/engagement

 ❖ Slightly more respondents ranked Option A as first or second choice than Option B. No one ranked Options C or D as their first choice
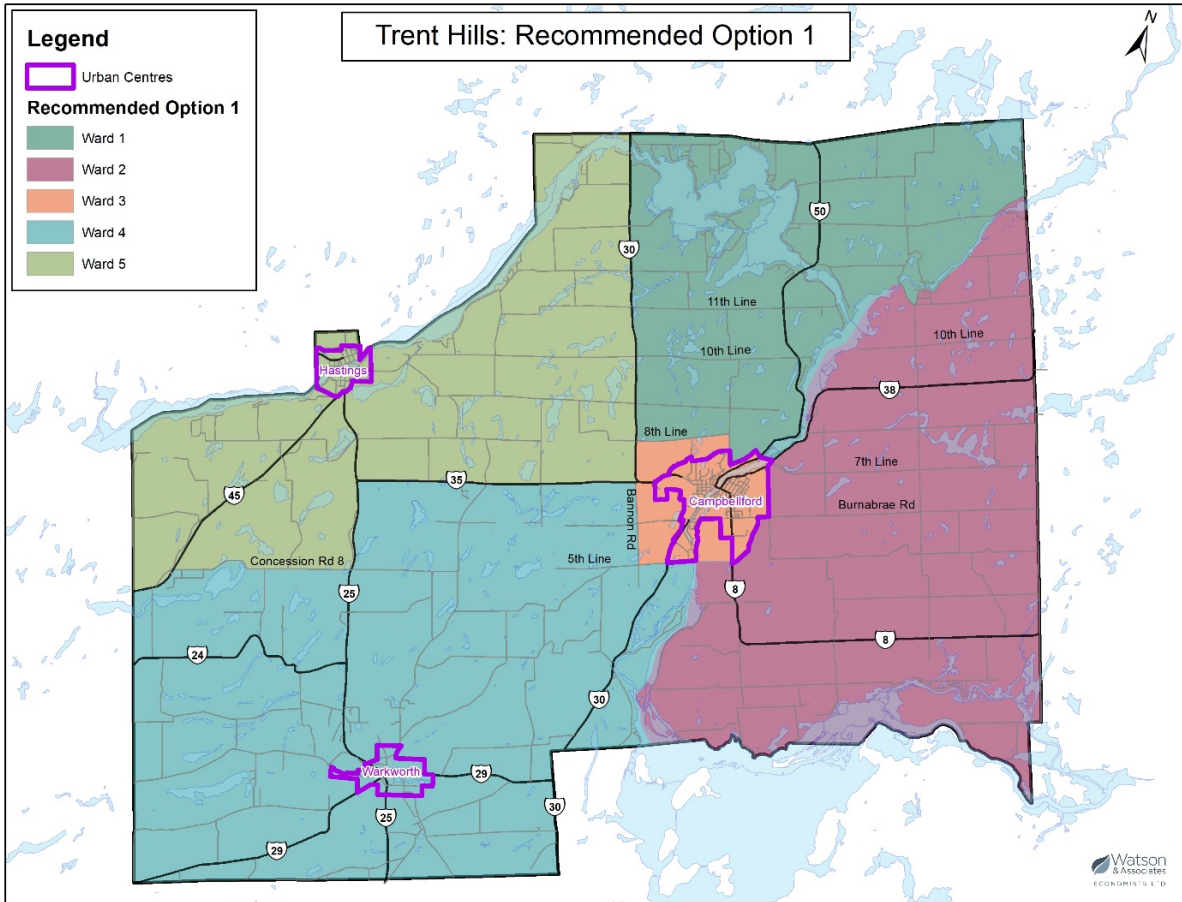
 ✓ <u>Guiding principles</u>

Recommended Options

Trent Hills: Recommended Option 1

Legend

Urban Centres

Recommended Option 1

- Ward 1
- Ward 2
- Ward 3
- Ward 4
- Ward 5

Option 1
(Preliminary Option A)

Ward	2020 Total Population[1]	Variance	Optimal Range	2030 Total Population[1]	Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	3,140	90%	O -	3,150	87%	O -
Ward 2	2,830	81%	O -	2,790	77%	O -
Ward 3	4,150	119%	O +	4,700	129%	OR +
Ward 4	3,540	101%	O	3,590	99%	O
Ward 5	3,780	108%	O +	3,920	108%	O +
Total	17,440			18,150		
Ward Average	3,490			3,630		

[1] Population represents permanent and seasonal residents and includes the Net Census Undercount of approximately 4%.

Numbers have been rounded.

Recommended Options

Trent Hills: Recommended Option 2

Legend

Urban Centres

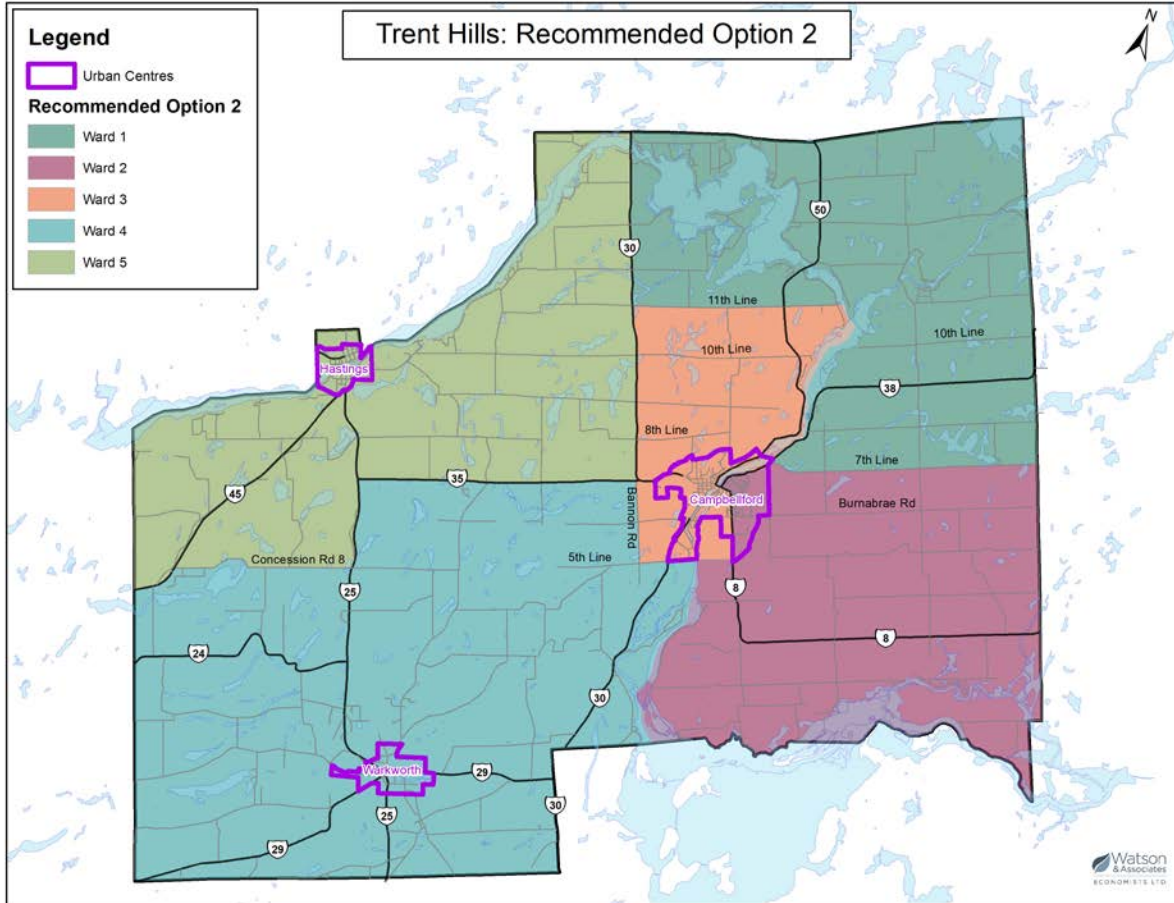**Recommended Option 2**
- Ward 1
- Ward 2
- Ward 3
- Ward 4
- Ward 5

Option 2
(Preliminary Option B)

Ward	2020 Total Population[1]	Variance	Optimal Range	2030 Total Population[1]	Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	3,500	100%	O	3,510	97%	O
Ward 2	3,480	100%	O	3,610	99%	O
Ward 3	3,130	90%	O -	3,520	97%	O
Ward 4	3,540	101%	O	3,590	99%	O
Ward 5	3,780	108%	O +	3,920	108%	O +
Total	**17,440**			**18,150**		
Ward Average	**3,490**			**3,630**		

[1] Population represents permanent and seasonal residents and includes the Net Census Undercount of approximately 4%.

Numbers have been rounded.

Evaluation Summary Of Options

OPTION 1

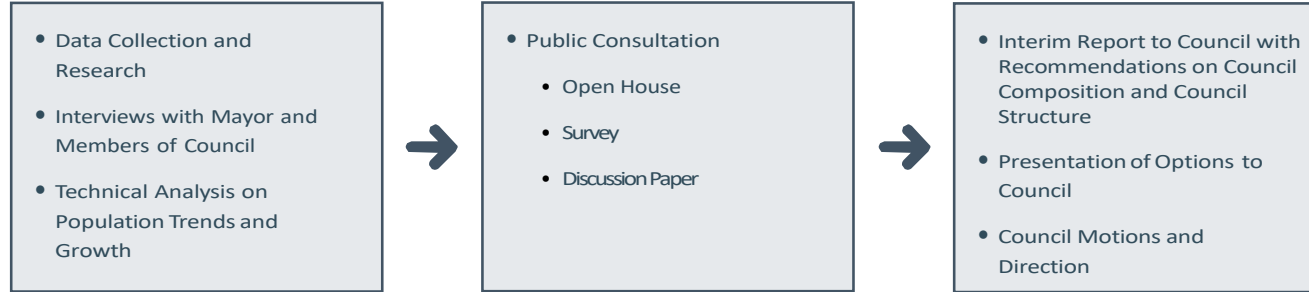| Principle	Does the Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?	Comment
Representation by population	Yes	Higher population in wards with identified settlement areas.
Protection of communities of interest	Yes	Three wards encompass major settlement areas; two wards predominantly rural areas.
Recognition of natural or man-made barriers or dividers as boundaries	Yes	All boundaries follow the Trent River, County Roads with one exception (Concession Road 8 West).
Recognition of density	Yes	Higher population where identified settlement areas located; lower population in predominantly rural wards.
Recognition of areas of growth/decline	Largely successful	Settlement areas where most growth is expected already above the optimal population figure; one exceeds the acceptable range by 2030.
Boundaries that accommodate growth/ shifts in population for at least three municipal elections	Partially successful	Settlement areas where most growth is expected already above the optimal population figure but are within acceptable range. Ward 3 will exceed the acceptable range by 2026.

OPTION 2

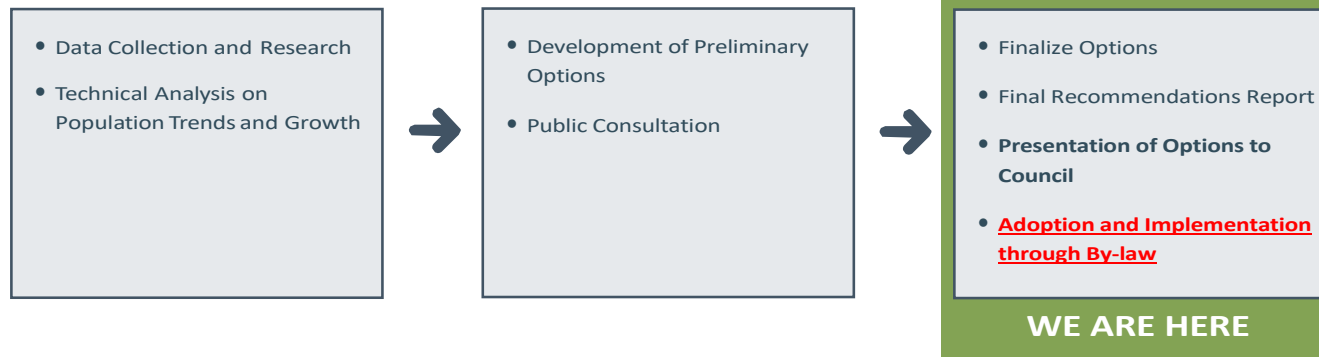| Principle	Does the Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?	Comment
Representation by population	Yes	All wards at or within 10% of optimal.
Protection of communities of interest	Partially successful	Northeastern area is a single ward that crosses the Trent River; combines dispersed communities. Campbellford divided into two wards.
Recognition of natural or man-made barriers or dividers as boundaries	Largely successful	Some local roads serve as boundaries (11th Line West and 7th Line East; Concession Road 8 West) rather than major roads. All other boundaries suitable.
Recognition of density	Largely successful	Achieving population parity reflects variations in population density.
Recognition of areas of growth/decline	Yes	Settlement area where most growth is expected below the optimal population figure but within acceptable range at present.
Boundaries that accommodate growth/ shifts in population for at least three municipal elections	Yes	All wards within 10% of optimal in 2020 and 2030.

Process & Next Steps

Phase 1 – Council Composition Review – Completed March 2020

- Data Collection and Research
- Interviews with Mayor and Members of Council
- Technical Analysis on Population Trends and Growth

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- Public Consultation
  - Open House
  - Survey
  - Discussion Paper

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- Interim Report to Council with Recommendations on Council Composition and Council Structure
- Presentation of Options to Council
- Council Motions and Direction

Phase 2 – Ward Boundary Review

- Data Collection and Research
- Technical Analysis on Population Trends and Growth

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- Development of Preliminary Options
- Public Consultation

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- Finalize Options
- Final Recommendations Report
- **Presentation of Options to Council**
- **Adoption and Implementation through By-law**

WE ARE HERE

Questions?