



# Municipality of Trent Hills Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review

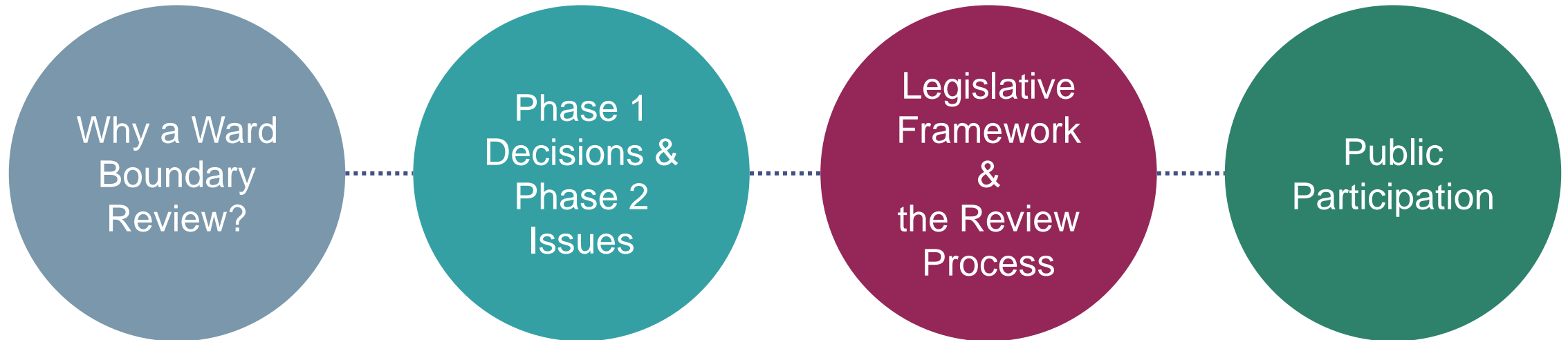
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PRELIMINARY OPTIONS REPORT  
*July 29, 2020*

Dr. Robert Williams + Jack Ammendolia



## What Will Be Covered in This Information Session?

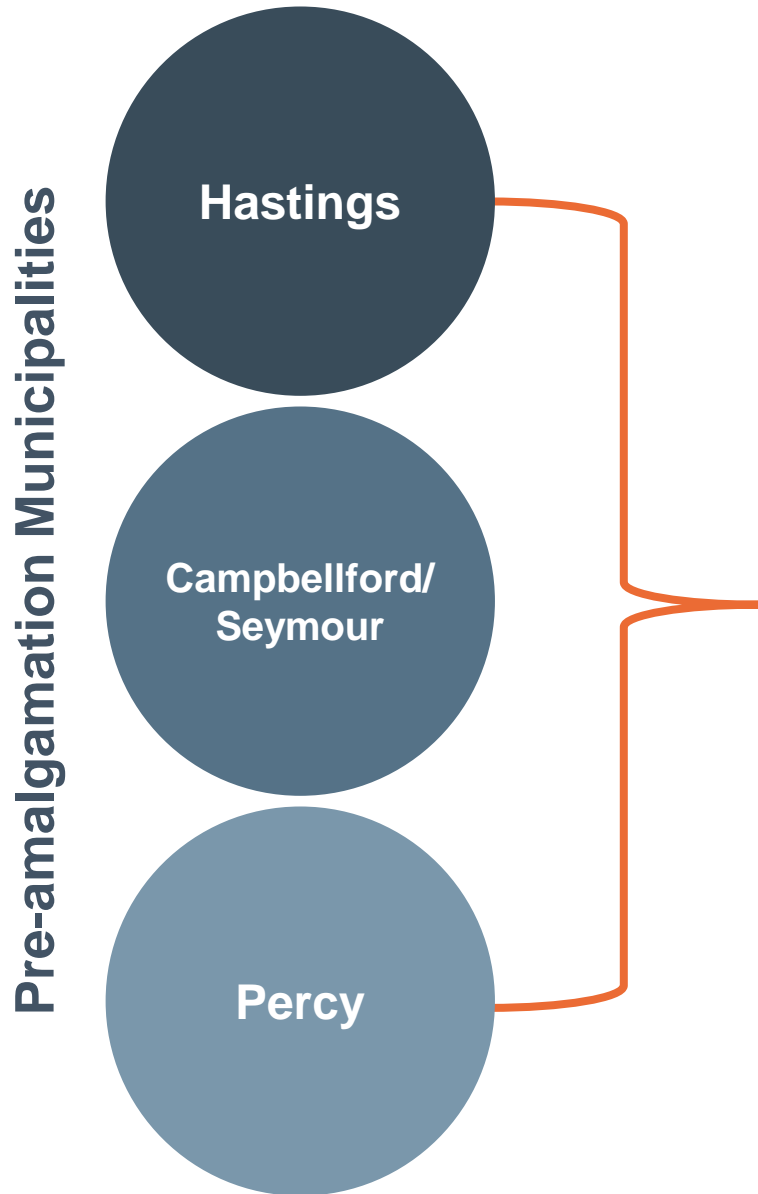




How well does the present electoral structure serve the citizens of Trent Hills?

Does the present electoral structure provide fair and effective representation?

Would an alternative system provide better representation  
for the citizens of Trent Hills?



**2001**

**Trent Hills created by Ministerial Restructuring Order**

**COUNCIL**

**Mayor**

*(elected at-large)*

**6 Councillors**

*(elected in 3 wards)*

**1 Deputy Mayor**

*(selected from 6 Councillors)*

**BOUNDARIES**

Retained from 3 pre-amalgamation municipalities





Re. municipal system of representation, Ontario's *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes a lower-tier municipality to:

- define the size (composition) of Council
- determine how Council (other than the Mayor) will be elected
- “divide or re-divide the municipality into wards or dissolve the existing wards”

# The Trent Hills Council Composition Review

Prepared Council to make decisions on whether to:



- change or retain the way the Deputy Mayor is selected;
- change or retain the present composition of Council; and
- retain the existing ward structure or to adopt an alternative arrangement.

# The Trent Hills Council Composition Review



At its meeting on March 17, 2020, Council approved five resolutions.

## Commencing with the Municipal Election in 2022,

**1**

the Municipality of Trent Hills continues to elect Councillors in a ward system;

**2**

the composition of Council be maintained at 7 members, including the Mayor;

**3**

the position of Deputy Mayor be elected at-large (by general vote);

# The Trent Hills Council Composition Review



## Commencing with the Municipal Election in 2022,

**4**

each ward will elect  
an equal number of  
Councillors;

**5**

ward boundary  
options will be  
prepared based on a  
5-ward system.



# A New Ward System for Trent Hills



A set of guiding principles should be consulted to evaluate “effective representation” by the wards:



Representation by population



Protection of communities of interest



Recognition of natural or man-made barriers or dividers as boundaries



Recognition of density



Recognition of areas of growth/decline



Ward boundaries that accommodate growth/shifts in population for at least 3 municipal elections.



## Clarifying the guiding principles:

### Effective Representation Is The Overarching Guiding Principle

➤	Representation by population	<p>Each ward consists of roughly the same number of people (the principle of voter “parity”)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• some variation will be considered acceptable (25%)</li><li>• calculations include both permanent and seasonal residents</li></ul>
➤	Protection of Communities of Interest	<p>As far as possible, wards should be cohesive units and areas with common interests related to representation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• boundaries are drawn around communities, not through them</li></ul>
➤	Recognition of natural or man-made barriers or dividers as boundaries	<p>Ideally boundaries are not arbitrary lines on a map</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• should rely on recognizable and permanent &amp; easily remembered “markers”</li></ul>

# The Ward Boundary Review



## Clarifying the guiding principles:

➤	Recognition of density	Wards should of a compact, contiguous shape <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• should accommodate variations in the densities and characteristics of residential settlement across a municipality</li></ul>
➤	Recognition of areas of growth/decline	Ward populations should give some weight to projected population growth within the Municipality <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• avoid wards that will be out-of-date the day after they are adopted</li></ul>
➤	Ward boundaries that accommodate growth/shifts in population for at least 3 municipal elections	Wards electoral boundaries have a limited lifespan

# A New Ward System for Trent Hills



- Ideal result of this electoral redistribution would be “full parity” in the population of the five wards while meeting all of the principles
- Ideal wards are impossible because of the limits imposed by the social and natural environment of the municipality and the guiding principles
- Requires a “renovation” of the present ward model, but it need not mean a complete “demolition” of the way people understand Trent Hills and its component parts
  - local identification with and “allegiances” to historic communities are not erased because those areas are now aligned differently to elect Councillors

# Your Contribution to This Review

## Public Engagement

- Be willing to ask questions today and through the Municipality's website
- Read the materials on the Municipality's website to better understand the issues under consideration
- Complete the survey on the Municipality's website
- Public input provides valuable insight into the Review. It is used along with professional expertise, guided by best practices to develop recommended options.



**Questions?**