

Recommendation:

That the C.A.O.-2025-04 report, dated March 18, 2025, regarding the Young's Point community signage opportunity be received; and

That Council direct staff to negotiate and action a lease for the property located a 400 South Beach Road for the installation of Young's Point community signage with the Township of Selwyn.

Overview:

The Township of Selwyn has approached staff to inquire about the potential location of community signage that demarcates the entrance to the settlement area of Young's Point. Selwyn has been working towards locating the signage on Highway 28 as close to the settlement area as possible. Finding an appropriate location along the highway is a challenge and through their discussions with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) who control the road it was determined that a set back of 250 meters from the signalized intersection at Young's Point was required. The goal is to install the signage at the southern entrance to Young's Point and with the restrictions imposed by the MTO the closest available southern property is in Douro-Dummer and is a property the Township owns.

The Township of Selwyn has been working on this community project for some time and the hope is to erect the signage in advance of the 2025 Peter Robinson celebrations, recognizing that Young's Point is one of the historic Peter Robinson settlements. Having approached Douro-Dummer when it was clear that land in our community would be the only viable option for the signage, the Township is happy to support its neighbour and partner with their request.

The identified property is outlined on the image below, immediately neighbouring 2044 Highway 28 with frontage at approximately 400 South Beach Road.



The property is a vacant parcel of land without a civic address but is conventionally considered to be at 400 South Breach Road. The Township owns the property, and it is currently used as a daylighting triangle for the intersection of Old Highway 28 and South Beach Road. Should a sign be erected on the property it should be located as close to the western edge of the parcel as possible respecting the centreline setbacks of both roads. Staff note that in the past, neighbouring property owners have approached the Township expressing an interest in purchasing the parcel of land. To date both staff and Council have been resistant to allowing this as it is currently used in our traffic management. By allowing for the installation of signage, the Township will continue to maintain its ownership of the land and work to have it be used for a dual purpose of signage and traffic control.

An image of the proposed sign is attached to this report (Attachment 1) and while inconsistent with our Townships settlement signage, it would not be located anywhere near our current signs and not be in conflict. To best facilitate this request from the Township of Selwyn, Douro-Dummer staff would suggest that both communities enter into a lease agreement for a period of less than 30 years. The lease agreement would be for \$1.00 per year and primarily be in place to establish responsibilities and liabilities for each of the communities. Douro-Dummer as a willing host of the signage would effectively allow it to be on our land for no cost. Selwyn would agree to the expenses related to installation, on-going maintenance and decommissioning with Douro Dummer monitoring the signage for any maintenance requirements. Selwyn would also agree to accept all liabilities should the signage cause harm or damage to property or individuals for any reason.

Through discussions, Selwyn has indicated it is amiable to allow Douro-Dummer acknowledgement on the signage (attachment 2) if the Township agrees to help prepare the site for installation. Staff anticipate that we should be responsible to bare some of the costs for maintenance and liability. Staff are supportive of allowing the signage to be in our community and have a neutral position regarding being acknowledged on the sign. If Council would like to have Douro-Dummer represented on the sign, this direction should be provided.

Conclusion:

Douro-Dummer has the opportunity to support our neighbours the Township of Selwyn with allowing for the installation of Young's Point Community Signage on a piece of Township owned land. This is being proposed in acknowledgement of the Peter Robinson 200th anniversary and staff are supportive of the project provided that the Townships agree to a lease that establishes appropriate responsibilities for installation, maintenance, decommissioning and liability.

Financial Impact:

There would be no financial impact to Douro Dummer for this project other than staff time to develop and negotiate a lease for the land. Most of the expenses would be the responsibility of the Township of Selwyn.

Service Modernization and Innovation
Modernizing, refining and innovating services for residents is essential to effectively meet the needs of our community, enhance our operational efficiency, and ensure we remain adaptable in a rapidly changing world.

Business Attraction, Expansion, and Retention
Business attraction, expansion, and retention is vital for the economic health and sustainability of our Township, such as job creation, tax revenue, investing in innovation, maintaining our quality of life, and supporting community stability.

Infrastructure Renewal
Infrastructure renewal is a critical investment for our Township as it will ensure our adherence to health and safety, economic development, investment attraction, environmental sustainability, quality of life, public confidence, and regional competitiveness.