

Report to Council – Committee Appointments & Portfolios

From: Heather Watson, Mayor

Date: September 2, 2025

Recommendation:

That the report from Mayor Watson, dated September 2, 2025, be received and that the following appointments be made:

Mayor Watson – OPP Detachment Board, Arena Facilities Future Ad-Hoc Committee and Co-Chair Canada Day Parade

Deputy Mayor Nelson – Committee of Adjustment and Co-Chair Remembrance Day Committee

Councillor Watt – Otonabee Region Conservation Authority Board and Co-Chair Remembrance Day Committee

Councillor Landsman – Township of Douro-Dummer Public Library Board and Co-Chair Santa Clause Parade Committee

Councillor Johnston – Co-Chair, Santa Claus Parade Committee and Co-Chair, Canada Day Parade Committee

And further that the Planning Committee and Short-Term Rental Advisory Committee are both disbanded;

And further that Council portfolio responsibilities are removed;

And further that Councillor Johnston be appointed to the Hiring Committee for the Treasurer recruitment;

And lastly that staff report back to Council with a plan to seek input from the community regarding our key events: Canada Day Parade, Remembrance Day Service and Santa Claus Parade.

Overview:

With the appointment of Councillor Landsman to the Dummer Ward seat due to Councillor Vervoort's resignation, a number of committees require updated appointments. In past years, Council members were assigned portfolios and expected to provide regular reports at Committee of the Whole. Unfortunately, participation in this process was inconsistent, with limited reporting back to Council. In light of this, the portfolio structure is being discontinued. This change will allow Council to focus more directly on required boards and committees, while ensuring accountability through established committee mandates and meeting minutes.

Appointments & Changes:

- **Police Services Board** is now formally referred to as the **OPP Detachment Board**.
- **Mayor Watson** – appointed Arena Facilities Future Ad-Hoc Committee and Co-Chair Canada Day Parade Committee.
- **Deputy Mayor Nelson** – appointed Co-Chair Remembrance Day Committee
- **Councillor Watt** – appointed to the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority, removed from the Library Board and added to Co-Chair Remembrance Day Committee
- **Councillor Johnston** – removed from Arenas Facilities Future Ad-Hoc Committee, added as Co-Chair of Canada Day Parade and Santa Clause Parade Committees and Hiring Committee for the Treasurer recruitment.
- **Councillor Vervoort** – removed from all committee appointments.
- **Councillor Landsman** – added to Council, appointed to the Township of Douro-Dummer Library Board, and assigned Co-Chair for Santa Clause Parade Committee.
- **Planning Committee** and **Short-Term Rentals Committee** are no longer active. Planning responsibilities have shifted under Provincial legislation and through the Delegated Authority By-law, and the Short-Term Rentals Advisory Committee has fulfilled its mandate and is dissolved.

Township Events:

The Township has a long history of cherished community events such as the Santa Claus Parade, Canada Day Parade, and Remembrance Day ceremonies. These events are deeply valued by residents and contribute to the fabric of community life.

Currently, these events are largely funded and organized by Township staff, with some Council involvement. This arrangement has resulted in significant costs and staff workload. To ensure the long-term sustainability of these events, it is recommended that Council seek input from the community on how best to support them going forward. Community-led models, with strong volunteer participation, may provide a more sustainable path.

In the interim, Council members will take on leadership roles to help guide and share responsibility for event organization:

- **Santa Claus Parade Committee** – Councillor Johnston and Councillor Landsman as Co-Chairs.
- **Canada Day Parade Committee** – Mayor Watson and Councillor Johnston as Co-Chairs.
- **Remembrance Day Committee** – Councillor Watt and Councillor Landsman as Co-Chairs.

Council will also invite volunteers from the community to support these events, helping to reduce costs and ensure their continued success.

Conclusion:

Council committee appointments have been updated to reflect legislative changes, completed mandates, and current needs. The discontinuation of portfolios allows for a sharper focus on committee accountability. Additionally, by initiating a transition toward community-led event planning, Council aims to preserve these important traditions while ensuring fiscal responsibility and long-term sustainability.

Financial Impact: N/A

Strategic Plan Applicability: Supports community engagement, sustainability, and good governance.