



Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh
82133 Council Line, RR5
Goderich, ON N7A 3Y2
www.acwtownship.ca
519-524-4669

January 12, 2021

Open Letter to Concerned Residents Regarding the Dissolution of the Ward System in ACW.

ACW would like to address the concerns that have been expressed with regards to the dissolution of the Ward System in ACW. In consultation with staff, this document has been prepared to give interested residents with information and clarification on this subject.

ACW Council is elected to make decisions on behalf of the entire municipality regardless of where they live.

It has been expressed that representation across the entire municipality may be compromised because of the dissolution of the Wards. It is the opinion of Council that the dissolution of the Wards only *increases* the representation for every elector in the Township.

With the Ward System currently in place, electors are only able to vote for 5/7 members of Council. If you are registered to vote in a particular Ward, you are not able to vote for a member of Council who represents another Ward. With the dissolution of the Wards, *every* elector in the municipality can vote for *every* member of Council.

All decisions, financial or otherwise are determined based on the interests of the entire municipality. These issues are not segregated by Wards nor have they been since amalgamation in 2001.

Implementing an At-Large system of election enables all the electorate to vote for all members of Council. The ward system does not provide for this opportunity.

With regards to the process of considering the change made, at the November 17th Council meeting, Council requested staff prepare a report on the dissolution of the wards in ACW. This was brought forward to the December 1st meeting of Council. As a result of the consideration of the report, Council requested staff bring forward a by-law to formally dissolve the ward system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Glen McNeil'.

Glen McNeil, Mayor
Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh

