



Township of
Springwater

2020 **Annual Report**

Welcome Message

This has been a year of unprecedented challenges and changes for the entire world. All of our lives have been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. During these times of uncertainty, residents turn to their local government to keep them informed, provide support and deliver the services they rely on every day.

Throughout the year, the municipality has adapted to the constantly evolving COVID-19 pandemic. Although some projects and initiatives have been postponed or rescheduled as the Township follows the advice of federal, provincial and local public health directives, through the use of technology, perseverance and ingenuity, staff have found creative ways to move the business of the Township forward. Throughout this report you will learn about some of the projects and major initiatives that have been undertaken in the past year and discover what we have planned for the future.

As we continue to navigate the way the world is changing, be assured that the Township is committed to supporting our residents, businesses and stakeholders. We will continue to find innovative ways to provide service and ensure that the business of the municipality proceeds.

Stay up-to-date on what's happening in the Township by following us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram or by visiting springwater.ca



A stylized, handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read 'Don'.

Mayor Don Allen



Springwater Council



Don Allen

Mayor
don.allen@springwater.ca
W. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2040
H. 705-302-4253



George Cabral

Ward 1 Councillor
george.cabral@springwater.ca
W. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2060
H. 705-322-0276



Wanda Maw-Chapman

Ward 3 Councillor
wanda.maw-chapman@springwater.ca
W. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2060
H. 705-725-6517



Jack Hanna

Ward 5 Councillor
jack.hanna@springwater.ca
W. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2060
H. 705-721-0055



Jennifer Coughlin

Deputy Mayor
jennifer.coughlin@springwater.ca
W. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2060
H. 705-321-9272



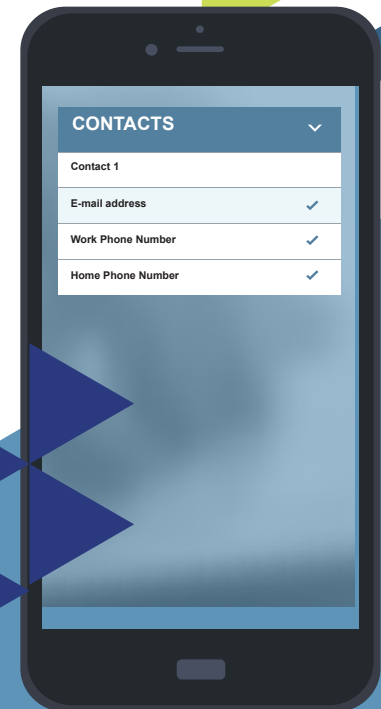
Perry Ritchie

Ward 2 Councillor
perry.ritchie@springwater.ca
W. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2060
H. 705-322-2885



Anita Moore

Ward 4 Councillor
anita.moore@springwater.ca
W. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2060
H. 705-725-1347



Adapting to COVID-19

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Township like many other businesses and corporations, was forced to adapt and change operations. The Township's Emergency Community Control Group was immediately called into action and has been meeting regularly throughout the year to ensure that municipal business is able to proceed.

Throughout the past year, the municipality has adjusted to the changing regulations and mandates issued by various levels of government. Working closely with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, the Township has followed public health guidelines to ensure the safety of staff, residents and stakeholders while continuing to provide the services our community relies on.

Increased Communication

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic residents have turned to the municipality as a trusted source of information. The Township ensured that residents were kept informed of the changing guidelines and restrictions by providing consistent, accurate and timely information using a variety of mediums.

Throughout the year, the municipality communicated with residents via the Township website springwater.ca, social media channels including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, provided video updates on YouTube, included print advertising in the local newspaper and issued media releases.

213K Hits on Springwater.ca **39** Media releases
26 Editions of Springwater Link **1563** Social media posts

Leveraging Technology

With a variety of online services already available, the Township was well positioned to move forward with remote and virtual services for residents.

Virtual Meetings

Although the Township was already broadcasting Council meetings live online prior to the pandemic, Council and board members were meeting in person. When the pandemic hit, the Clerk's Department and IT staff were able to quickly put processes and by-laws in place allowing for Council, Committee and Board Members to participate virtually using Zoom Conferencing. Staff also arranged a call-in option so that anyone wishing to listen to the meeting was able to do so using a phone rather than an internet connection.

Additionally, staff found a way for stakeholder engagement by creating a new question period procedure. The new process allows anyone wishing to submit for question period to do so in writing or by participating live during the meeting. Anyone wishing to view or participate in a meeting is able to get details in the agenda.

Online Services

In addition to the many services the municipality already offered online such as water and wastewater billing, the Township moved additional forms online, such as dog tag registrations, change of address forms and provided an option to pay for parking tickets.

Additionally, new processes and technology were put in place to allow residents to apply for building and planning permits virtually.

Listening to Residents

Off-Road Vehicles Permitted on Springwater Roads

Springwater Council passed a by-law in the spring of 2020 to permit off-road vehicles on most municipal roadways.

The new by-law follows extensive public consultation and engagement on the topic. Staff and Council worked closely with ratepayers and the COATV club to move this by-law forward and create more accessible riding options in our area.

Under the new by-law, off-road vehicles are permitted from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily, at any time of the year. The time restriction does not apply to anyone using off-road vehicles for farming, hunting or work purposes.

There are four sections of municipal roads that remain restricted for off-road vehicle use:

- Carson Road from Anne Street North to Bayfield Street North
- Doran Road from Finlay Mill Road to Gill Road
- Finlay Mill Road from Bayfield Street North to Doran Road
- St. Vincent Street from the City of Barrie limits to Pooles Road

All Provincial and County of Simcoe roads remain restricted and off-road vehicles are not permitted on municipal property unless parked in a designated parking area.

To learn more about the by-law or view a map of permitted areas, visit springwater.ca/ORV.

Backyard Chickens Permitted in Springwater

Properties within Springwater, that meet the setback requirements, now have the ability to keep up to four backyard hens, following the approval of a new by-law and three year pilot project in November 2020.

The by-law was enacted following extensive public consultation with ratepayers, the agricultural community and industry experts.

To be approved to keep backyard chickens, residents must submit a complete application form with the required supporting documents to the Clerk's Department for approval. Applicants are required to renew their license annually. For more information visit springwater.ca/BackyardChickens.

Cannabis Production Interim Control By-law

To allow for the completion of a Cannabis Production Study, Council passed an interim control by-law in June 2020 which put a moratorium on new cannabis producing facilities in Springwater for a one year period.

The Township's Official Plan and Zoning By-law do not currently speak to the production, processing or cultivation of cannabis or any of its byproducts and this study will help to define a cannabis production facility and provide guidance and regulations for cannabis production in Springwater.

Prior to the expiration of the moratorium in June 2021, Township staff will work to initiate the process to amend the Official Plan, Zoning By-law and Site Plan Control By-law based on recommendations presented to Council by consultants WSP Group.

Capital Investments

Major 2020 Capital Projects	Actual Cost
Multi-Purpose Complex (Land Acquisition)	\$3,953,219
2020 Roads - Resurfacing, Rehabilitation & Gravel to Hard Top Conversion	\$1,295,231
Fire Tanker 25	\$665,149
Fire Pumper 51	\$569,856
Anten Mills Water Tower	\$405,352
Tandem Truck	\$278,734
Repeater & Antenna System (Fire Services)	\$206,277

Major 2021 Capital Projects	Budget
Fire Station 2 - Construction and Furnishings	\$3,106,704
Elmvale Lift Station	\$3,000,000
Craig Road	\$2,077,000
Elmvale Wastewater Treatment Plan - Tertiary Filter Replacement	\$1,400,000
Lorne Street - George Street to William Street	\$1,300,000
2021 Roads - Resurfacing, Rehabilitation & Gravel to Hard Top Conversion	\$1,092,000
Patterson Street - Houden Street to Queen Street E	\$775,000

Going Digital: Asset Management

To improve data management and modernize maintenance processes, the Township invested in CityWide Asset Manager.

The new software allows staff in Public Works and Recreation, Parks & Facilities to receive and complete work orders, add critical notes, and upload photos to specific projects or infrastructure. Senior management is able to streamline the work order process and view records which demonstrate the time dedicated to various activities.

By transitioning to an efficient and user-friendly system, staff are able to complete work orders digitally rather than trying to manage papers and data. Since the software went live in January 2020, 440 service requests have been completed, 3,492 work orders were processed and an estimated \$18,000 will be saved annually.

The new software will prove to be especially valuable as the Township prioritizes recommendations made in the recently completed Roads Needs Study and the upcoming Asset Management Plan to be finalized in 2021.

Serving the Community

Springwater Public Library

Through all of the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Springwater Public Library used the past year as a learning opportunity for staff. They took additional training, learned how to provide online programming and created engaging take-home kits and materials. A short-term Strategic Plan was also created to better position the library through the pandemic and provide for the needs of residents.

Materials Circulation

When the Springwater Public Library closed in March, e-book and e-audiobook circulation greatly increased and remained above average throughout the remainder of the year. Circulation of physical materials was provided via curbside service starting in June in Elmvale and July in Midhurst and Minesing.

Circulation of physical materials: 53,676

E-book / e-audiobook circulation: 14,068

Programming

Although programming looked very different this year, residents continued to engage with Library staff through a number of mediums. Storytime, craft programs, STEM, Lego and genealogy tips were all provided in video format. Video programs had an average of 47 views per program, which is double the average for face-to-face program attendance.

Additionally, 249 storytime take-home craft kits were given out and 61 Halloween and Christmas activity bags were purchased.

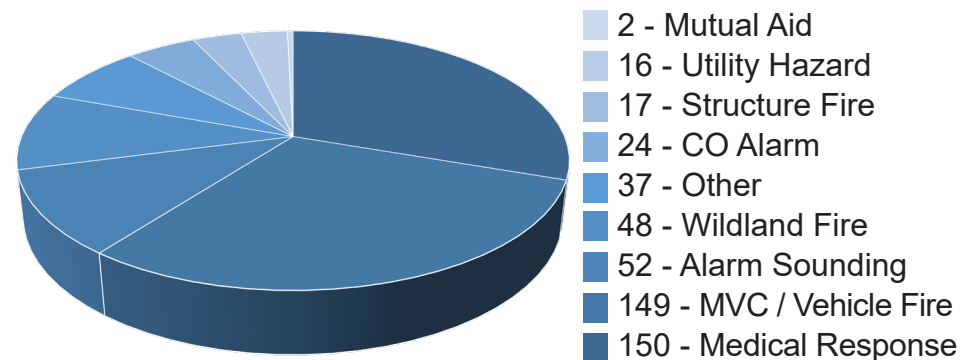
Springwater Fire & Emergency Services

In 2020, Springwater Fire continued to provide all essential services and protect the community, despite the challenges and restrictions brought on by the ongoing pandemic. Emergency response, fire prevention, inspections, public education, emergency management and firefighter training were all successfully implemented throughout the year. Additionally, staff made progress on plans for the new Fire Station 2, which will be located at 1132 Snow Valley Road as part of the new community hub.

Training

Springwater Firefighters are highly skilled and participate in ongoing training to prepare them to serve our community in an efficient, effective and professional manner, while ensuring personal safety. In 2020, collectively Springwater Firefighters completed 7017 hours of training, including: shore-based rescue, first aid, automated external defibrillator training, auto extrication, primary search and rescue, firefighter survival, pump operations, tanker operations and alternative fuel vehicle responder training.

Calls by the Numbers, 2020



Strategic Partnerships

This year presented challenges for organizations throughout the Township. Through innovation and creativity, the municipality was able to provide support to allow them to continue in a different capacity. The Springwater-Elmvale Farmers' Market was able to host another successful season; the Elmvale Fall Fair pivoted to hold an online Thanksgiving Celebration; and the Christmas season was marked with virtual tree lightings and displays throughout the Township. Although this year was unlike anything we've experienced before, the spirit of Springwater remained strong.

Street Banners to Honour Local Veterans

Banners honouring local veterans were hung on Queen Street in Downtown Elmvale throughout the month of November. The banners serve as a reminder of all the local servicemen and women who fought for our freedom. This initiative was a partnership between the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 262 (Elmvale), the Elmvale BIA and the Township.

Of the over 100 local veterans' photos that line the walls of the Elmvale Legion, thirty-two (32) were featured on the banners this year. Each of these veterans was hand selected by the Legion Board.

The partnership hopes to further expand on the number of veterans recognized in years to come.

Building Community Supports with the Elmvale & District Food Bank

With the support of the Township and the community, the Elmvale & District Food Bank officially opened their doors to clients at their new location in November.

The new facility, located at 62 Yonge St. N, was constructed on land donated by the Township, to address some of the challenges experienced at their previous location in the Elmvale Community Hall. These challenges included food storage issues, privacy concerns and accessibility barriers. The new facility is located within close proximity to the Simcoe County LINX Transit system, has ample parking, a private interview room and plenty of storage space.

Run by a team of dedicated volunteers, the Elmvale Food Bank serves the Township of Springwater and the surrounding area. It continues to see an increasing need in the community year over year.

In February 2019, the Township committed to a one-time capital contribution of \$100,000 towards the construction of a new facility and the Food Bank fundraised \$100,000. The municipality also agreed to front-end the necessary funds in excess of \$200,000 to be repaid over a period of up to 10 years.



Strengthening Economic Development

Supporting Businesses Through COVID-19

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses have been especially hard-hit, and the Township of Springwater has implemented economic development initiatives that have provided additional support to assist them in navigating through these challenging times.

Information on Support Programs

Through consistent communication to the local business community, the Township has identified and provided information on grants, loans and support programs available to businesses through community partners and the federal and provincial government.

Outdoor Patio Approval

Under the Stage 2 Provincial Re-opening Framework, the Township received requests from local restaurants for the approval of new and/or expanded outdoor patios. Staff from Building, Planning, Fire and Clerks worked together to efficiently develop a review and approval process for outdoor patios to aid businesses in their reopening plans.

Restaurant Listing

As restaurants and eateries were forced to close to in person dining in the spring, the Township created a listing highlighting which restaurants were offering pick-up and delivery services, along with contact information. This information was posted to the Township website and widely shared on social media to encourage residents to support local when considering take out options.

Physical Distancing Stickers

Staff created physical distancing floor stickers to assist in guiding patrons through local establishments as businesses re-opened under new COVID-19 guidelines. Approximately 90 stickers were distributed to local businesses and the Springwater-Elmvale Farmers' Market.

New Business Investment

The Township strives to support the attraction, retention and expansion of businesses in our community. We have seen these efforts reflected in the following recent investments in our community:

New Businesses: Canopy Coworking, Elmvale Eyecare, Original Pieces of Olde, The Backyard, Hillsdale Pharmacy, The Columbus Collective Makers Studio, Mad Cor Liquidations, the Waterbed Gallery, A New Leaf, Georgian Bay Recreation, HJ Advisors and the Phelpsston Roadhouse, etc.

Western Mechanical: An application to establish a new industrial use by Western Mechanical has been received. The proposal includes the construction of two industrial buildings on Flos Road 4 E, developed in two phases, resulting in a total of 90+ jobs.

Elmvale Active Senior's Residence: In November, the Elmvale Active Seniors Residents (EASR) received a Ministerial Zoning Order from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to proceed with a site plan for a senior's residence in Elmvale. The proposed complex includes up to 240 one and two bedroom, affordable senior's apartments with underground parking and a medical centre.

Commercial / Industrial Development: A number of projects are underway in Springwater including the planned expansion of the Bertram Industrial Park with 8 additional lots, the Sterile Disinfecting Service site plan which includes a 668.9 m² industrial building on Old Second South and the commencement of the Bayfield Street Corridor Study.

Planning for the Future

Official Plan Review

The Township continues to plan for the future through the review of its Official Plan. The Official Plan is a living document and updates ensure that it continues to meet local needs, as well as current upper tier policies within the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), Growth Plan for the Golden Horseshoe and the County Of Simcoe's Official Plan.

The revised plan will guide how the Township grows and changes over the next 20 years, and provides guidance on housing, industry, retail and community amenities, as well as protects the natural environment and heritage features.

A number of draft studies have recently been completed and are now available for review on the Township's website, including the draft Population-Related Employment Land Market Study, the draft Intensification Strategy and the draft Bayfield Street Corridor Study.

As the Township continues to move forward with the Official Plan Review process, we need to hear about what is important to you and what kind of Springwater you want to call home in the future. Comments will be accepted throughout the process and can be submitted at springwater.ca/OPR.

Residential Development Update

A number of residential developments across the municipality are in varying stages of the planning process, including the following draft plan approved units:

76 Anten Mills

362 Hillsdale

152 Elmvale

4,643 Midhurst

For a map of current and potential residential growth, please visit springwater.ca/CurrentDevelopment.

Midhurst Development

In November 2020, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) provided confirmation to the Township that the conditions related to the Midhurst Environmental Assessment (EA) have been fulfilled and infrastructure works related to the Carson Road Stage 1 Subdivision (Micks) may proceed.

In November 2019, Minister Jeff Yurek informed the Township that an individual Environmental Assessment for the Midhurst EA would not be required, however, there were seven conditions to be satisfied prior to infrastructure works taking place.

With the confirmation from the MECP that the conditions have been satisfied, infrastructure works have begun. The Township will continue to consult with all impacted stakeholders on this project. For additional information visit springwater.ca/MSP.

Long Range Financial Plan

Springwater has retained Watson & Associates to update the Long Range Financial Plan to assist the Township with the financial evaluation of anticipated growth in the municipality.

The Long Range Financial Plan aims to address the capital infrastructure needs and timing for tax-supported Township services, as well as rate-supported services such as water and wastewater. It will also determine capital financing; operating costs for infrastructure and services to accommodate new population and employment; comments on the potential impact on taxpayers over the planning horizon and provide the impacts of growth on the Township's debt capacity.



Looking Forward

Community Hub

In November, Springwater Council approved the purchase of a 50 acre parcel of land from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry at a cost of \$3,884,846 plus HST. The land, known as the Hasty Tract, is located at 1132 Snow Valley Road and will be used for the creation of a community hub.

In 2015, the Township began searching for a new site along the Bayfield corridor to relocate the existing Fire Station 2. In 2018, the Township announced its intentions to acquire the subject land for the development of a community hub. An Environmental Assessment (EA) commenced shortly thereafter and was completed in April 2020. The EA included fruitful discussions with First Nations communities and careful consideration for the preservation of the natural environment.

The location is ideal for a community hub and is supported by the Official Plan Review, Bayfield Corridor Study. The area provides a strategic location for community services, access to Simcoe County LINX transit and potential in the long-term for local, higher level public services and development of Midhurst's future downtown area.

Immediate plans for the land include:



New Fire Station



Meeting and Activity Space



New Recreation Centre with Arena



Active and Passive Recreation (e.g. trails and sports fields)



Library and Creative Space



Simcoe County EMS Station

To follow the progress and learn about community engagement opportunities for this project, visit springwater.ca/hastytract.

Community Based Strategic Plan

In an effort to plan for the future needs of Springwater and develop a long-term vision for the municipality, the Township will be preparing a community-based strategic plan. Community engagement and participation will be a key element in determining the strategic priorities and actions identified in the plan.

Through the creation of a strategic plan, the municipality will be provided with strategic direction and will be better equipped to decide on future priorities through the identification of a collective vision. It will also assist with infrastructure planning, budget development and establish a framework for the development of other plans within the municipality. Additionally, the plan will promote new and effective partnerships, establish success measures and promote improved communication within the Township.

Broadband Internet

Now more than ever, high-speed internet access is necessary for anyone working remotely, participating in virtual schooling, operating a home-based business or agricultural operation.

Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) has announced \$41.1 million in funding to support six fibre-to-the-home projects across Simcoe County. This investment is set to expand broadband services in a number of neighbourhoods throughout Springwater, including in Anten Mills, Phelpsston, Snow Valley and Hillsdale.

A new Springwater Broadband Committee has been formed to work with telecommunication companies expressing an interest in expanding in Springwater and will continue to advocate to other levels of government for additional funding to support rural community broadband projects.



2231 Nursery Road, Minesing, ON L9X 1A8
T: 705-728-4784 | F: 705-728-6957
info@springwater.ca | www.springwater.ca

