

WHITEWATER REGION COUNCIL SUMMARY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 16th, 2025

Here is a summary of the Regular Meeting of the Council on **April 16th, 2025**. Full agendas can be found here: <https://whitewaterregion.civicweb.net/Portal/>. The video is available on our YouTube page. This summary does not constitute the official record of the meeting and approved Minutes should be consulted for that purpose.

Presentations and Public Meetings

Council received presentations from:

- Moira D'Aoust, on behalf of the Whitewater Seniors Home Support & Active Living Centre (SALC), provided an overview of services such as Meals on Wheels, transportation, foot care, and senior programs across multiple communities. The presentation emphasized strong volunteer involvement and efforts to support aging in place through partnerships and outreach.
- Janis Tomkinson- The Whitewater Historical Society shared 2025 plans for the Ross Museum, including capital projects like the snow roller shelter and church door repairs. They also highlighted upcoming events and ongoing collaboration with the Whitewater Seniors Centre.
- Jim Butterworth, Chair of the Whitewater Region Public Library Board, provided Council an update on the Library, including its offerings, programming and partnerships. Jim also highlighted how the Library's strategic plan supports the Township's in many ways and is generally a great asset to our community.

Volunteer Appreciation Awards

Council recognized the 2025 Volunteer Appreciation Award recipients for their dedication to the community. Youth recipient Ava Regier contributed over 110 volunteer hours, while Amy McKenzie, president of Muskrat Minor Hockey, received the Adult award for her seven years of leadership. Lawrie Barton earned the Lifetime Achievement Award for her work with the Whitewater Historical Society and Ross Museum, as well as leading seniors fitness classes. Council thanked all volunteers for their vital role in the region.

Mayor's Address

Mayor Nicholson attended sixteen meetings and events on behalf of Council since the last council meeting, highlights of the address include:

- He and the CAO participated in the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce Business Summit, which provided valuable insights into tariffs, the Canadian economy, and their impact on local businesses. He also noted positive developments in the local business community and highlighted the strong involvement of businesses with the Chamber of Commerce.

- A mock council meeting was hosted at the Township office and arranged by the Clerk in partnership with the Cobden Public School. The session provided students with a hands-on learning experience about how municipal government works, and there is hope to do the same with our other public schools.
- Attended the County of Renfrew Community Services Committee meeting, where the committee continues to support the push for \$10-a-day child care. The Minister of Education recently announced 261 new licensed spaces for Renfrew County. Of those, up to 80 will be available for non-profits to apply for, and efforts are underway to secure some of those spaces for Whitewater Region.

Community Development

Council approved Zoning By-law Amendment D-14-207 for the property municipally known as 18070 Highway 17 (Bona Vista Campground). The amendment changes the zoning from Rural and Waterfront Vicinity to Campground Commercial – Exception 5 – Holding. This rezoning permits the additional use of a drive-in eating establishment (chip wagon).

Council approved Zoning By-law Amendment D-14-206 for the lands described as Westmeath Concession 6 EML, Part of Lot 23 (Whitewater O’Brien Winery). The amendment changes the zoning to Waterfront Vicinity – Exception 60 (WV-E60) to permit the additional use of a “tied house” for a period of two years.

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Environmental Services

Council authorised the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a Depot Service Agreement with Circular Materials Ontario for compensation for the Township to operate a Blue Box Depot at the Ross Landfill Site.

- Ontario’s Blue Box Program is shifting to full producer responsibility, making producers fully operationally and financially accountable. The Township’s transition period runs from July 1 to December 1, 2025.

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Announcements

Members of Council announced the following:

- Councillor Tabbert announced a used book sale and trivia night on May 23rd at the Cobden Legion
- Councillor Trimm noted first the annual Roy Church cornhole tournament is on May 10th at the Cobden Arena

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Additional information:

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