



Press Release

Town of Ingersoll already checking off Strategic Plan goals with more trails and more trees

At the Council meeting on Monday, March 6, Council of the Town of Ingersoll adopted the more trees plan which will become part of the existing Tree Canopy policy. The goal of the plan is to follow the lead of the federal government and plant approximately 4,000 new trees in the Town of Ingersoll by 2040.

This is already a major milestone in the new Council's term and occurs only a month after the adoption of the trails vision that will see more trails developed within the Town to complement the existing trails infrastructure.

Not only does this set the stage to accomplish two of Council's Strategic Plan Goals but it accomplishes some of the Recreation and Ingersoll Community Services Master Plan goals as well which identified nature trails, unpaved and recreation trails paved, as the 2nd and 3rd highest priorities for additional spending on parks and outdoor recreation facilities.

Said Mayor Brian Petrie "It is important to move quickly on a few of these low-hanging fruit so that we can then move onto the more challenging issues in the strategic plan such as the MURC and housing that Council will be considering later this year.

Since winning the landfill fight, the community has been able to reallocate its resources and move toward accomplishing its Strategic Plan goals. The community is no longer fighting for its survival, it is moving to a stage of self-actualization – what kind of community do we want to become. Clearly we want to become a community that has more trails and more trees and this accomplishes that."

In regards to the more trees plan, the Oxford Environmental Action Committee and Transition to Less Waste stated:

We believe strongly in the value of protecting and increasing urban tree cover. "Ingersoll's urban treescape is an incredibly valuable asset, and we support strong protections for trees in order to improve public health and increase community well-being. We would love to see Ingersoll become a model for other communities by adopting the most ambitious tree retention and replacement standards provincially."

Suzanne Crellin, President, Oxford Environmental Action Committee (OEAC)

"We're encouraged to see the Town address the issue of tree protection, especially in light of plans to

develop heavily treed areas in our community. Trees combat erosion, help to buffer climate change impacts like flooding, and provide habitat for birds and other wildlife. TTLW hopes a strengthened town tree policy will lead to the protection and planting of more trees so that everyone in our community can enjoy having a beautiful mix of diverse young, mature and old-growth trees in their neighbourhoods.”
Michael Farlow, President, Transition to Less Waste (TTLW)

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