

TOWNSHIPSHIP OF BLANDFORD-BLENHEIM

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA - AMENDED

Wednesday, May 21st, 2025

Watch via Live Stream on Township's YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdKRV0GAEuFaGbwhRPzoEXA>

4:00 p.m.

1. Welcome

2. Call to Order

3. Approval of the Agenda

Recommendation:

That the agenda for the May 21st, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council be adopted as printed, and circulated.

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

5. Minutes

a. May 7th, 2025 Minutes of Council

Recommendation:

That the minutes of the May 7th, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council be adopted, as printed and circulated.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

7. Public Meetings

None.

8. Delegations / Presentations

a. Anne Coleman, Director of Programs & Services, Ontario Living Wage Network, re: Ontario Living Wage Employer Certification

b. Dennis O'Neil, Member Services Coordinator, Association of Ontario Road Supervisors, re: 2025 AORS Municipal Public Works Trade Show (June 4-5, 2025)

c. Jule, Electric Vehicle Charging and Battery Energy Storage Company, re: Explanation of EV Charging Program

9. Correspondence

a. Specific

i. [Drumbo Fire Association 14th Annual Co-Ed Slo-Pitch Fundraiser Tournament Request for Event of Municipal Significance](#)

Recommendation:

Be it hereby resolved that whereas Regulation 389/91 of the Liquor License Act was amended in 2011; and,

Whereas Regulations require that an applicant for the Special Occasion Permit for a Public Event request the municipality to designate the event as an event of municipal significance;

Be it hereby resolved that the Drumbo Fire Association's 14th annual Co-Ed Slo-itch Tournament to be held on June 14, 2025 (or June 15, 2025 for the rain date) be declared an event of municipal significance.

b. General

None.

10. Staff Reports

a. Drew Davidson – Director of Protective Services

i. [FC-25-08 – Monthly Report](#)

Recommendation:

That Report FC-25-08 be received as information.

b. Ray Belanger – Chief Building Official

i. [CBO-25-05 – Monthly Report](#)

Recommendation:

That Report CBO-25-05 be received as information.

c. Sarah Matheson – Clerk

i. [DC-25-06 – Alternate Voting Method for the 2026 Municipal Election](#)

Recommendation:

That Report DC-25-06 be received as information; and

That Council approves the use of alternate voting methods (internet and telephone) for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election; and further,

That Council directs staff to prepare a 2026 Municipal Election Method of Voting By-Law for consideration at a future meeting of Council.

11. Reports from Council Members

12. Unfinished Business

13. Motions and Notices of Motion

14. New Business

15. Closed Session

None.

16. By-laws

a. 2497-2025, Being a by-law to provide for the adoption of budgetary estimates and tax rates for 2025, and to further provide for penalty and interest in default of payment; and,

b. 2498-2025, Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council.

Recommendation:

That the following By-laws be now read a first and second time: 2497-2025 & 2498-2025.

Recommendation:

That the following By-laws be now given a third and final reading: 2497-2025 & 2498-2025.

17. Other

18. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 4th, 2025 at 4:00 p.m., Regular Meeting

Recommendation:

Whereas business before Council has been completed at _____ pm;

That Council adjourn to meet again on Wednesday, June 4th, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7th, 2025
Council Chambers
47 Wilmot St. S. Drumbo, ON
Streamed live to Township of Blandford-Blenheim YouTube Channel
4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Council met at 4:00 p.m. for their first Regular Meeting of the month.

Present: Mayor Peterson, Councillors Banbury, Barnes, Demarest and Young.

Staff: Baer, Borton, Brick, Davidson, Degier, Krug, Harmer, Law, and Matheson.

Mayor Peterson in the Chair.

1. Welcome

2. Call to Order

3. Approval of the Agenda

RESOLUTION #1

Moved by – Councillor Young

Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Be it hereby resolved that the agenda for the May 7th, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council be adopted, with the addition of item 8. c. & d.

.Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None.

5. Adoption of Minutes

a. April 16th, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes of Council

RESOLUTION #2

Moved by – Councillor Banbury

Seconded by – Councillor Barnes

Be it hereby resolved that the minutes of the April 16th, 2025 Meeting of Council be adopted, as printed and circulated.

.Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

7. Public Meetings

RESOLUTION #3

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that Council rise and go into a Public Meeting under the Planning Act to consider an application for Zone Change:

ZN1-25-02 (Donald Mader);

And that Mayor Peterson Chair the Public Meeting.

.Carried

The Planner presented the Report, recommending approval. The applicant was in attendance. No Member had any question or comment regarding the report. No one in attendance spoke for or against the application. The decision was unanimous to approve the application.

RESOLUTION #4

Moved by – Councillor Banbury
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Be it hereby resolved that the Public Meeting be adjourned and that the Regular Meeting of Council reconvene.

.Carried

RESOLUTION #5

Moved by – Councillor Barnes
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Be it hereby resolved that Council approve the Zone Change Application submitted by Donald Mader, whereby the lands described as Part Lot 20, Concession 9 (Blenheim) As in 433815; S/T A11452, Township of Blandford-Blenheim are rezoned to 'A2-sp' with a special provision to permit a garden suite on the subject property as a temporary use for a period of 20 years.

.Carried

8. Delegations / Presentations

- a. Dean Smith, Intelivote Systems Inc., re: Vote by Internet Method Demonstration

Smith presented information regarding Intelivote Systems Inc. and Vote by Internet Method, as a potential option for the 2026 Municipal Election. Mayor Peterson posed the question to the Gallery regarding whether or not Vote by Internet would deter anyone from voting. A Dick affirmed he would still vote. P Bordeaux commented that he would rely on his family for assistance. Bordeaux noted that many older voters may not use the method unassisted. D Tew questioned whether a Voting Help Centre would be offered, Mayor Peterson noted they would be offered.

RESOLUTION #6

Moved by – Councillor Young

Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that the delegation from Dean Smith regarding Vote by Internet Method be received as information.

.Carried

b. Alan Dick, Resident of Plattsville, re: Speeding on River Road in Plattsville

Dick delegated regarding River Road, particularly the section of River Road from Young Street to Township Road 14. Dick cited grave concerns with the heavier vehicular as well as pedestrian traffic and safety concerns with vehicular speeding. Dick spoke to signage, enforcement and traffic calming measures, particularly proposing moveable speed bumps that are installed and in use during the months with no snow and removed during winter months.

RESOLUTION #7

Moved by – Councillor Demarest

Seconded by – Councillor Barnes

Be it hereby resolved that the delegation from Alan Dick regarding speeding on River Road be received as information; and further,

That Council direct staff to prepare a report with a cost analysis of traffic calming measures.

.Carried

c. Denise Tew, Plattsville & District Heritage Society, re: Plattsville's Anniversary.

Tew delegated to provide information regarding Plattsville's 175th Anniversary, particularly looking for Council's blessing to apply for the Canadian Heritage Arts and Heritage Grant. Monday August 3rd, 2025 is the proposed event date with participants and the service clubs having the option

of being in the Arena in the case of inclement weather. The event is proposed to be free of charge. The Grant, if acquired would assist in the conduct of the event. The planning committee consists of six individuals.

RESOLUTION #8

Moved by – Councillor Banbury
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that the delegation from Denise Tew regarding Plattsville's 175th Anniversary Events be received as information

.Carried

d. Meredith Maywood, Tourism Manager with Oxford County, re: Tourism Update

Maywood provided an update for the 2025 Tourism plans in Oxford County, reminding Council of the resource. Councillor Demarest asked a question regarding RVing and Glamping, particularly choices for these options staying overnight in the Township. Councillor Banbury asked a question regarding the Tourism Data Maywood's office collects.

RESOLUTION #9

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that the delegation from Meredith Maywood, Tourism Manager with Oxford County regarding a Tourism Update be received as information.

.Carried

9. Correspondence

a. Specific

i. City of Greater Sudbury re: Amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of Employer (Supreme Court Decision)

RESOLUTION #10

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that the Council of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim endorse the resolution from the City of Greater Sudbury

petitioning the province to amend to Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of “employer” to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project; and further,

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doud Ford Premier of Ontario, the Honourable David Piccini Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Honourable James Flack Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Attorney General of Ontario Doug Downey, the MPP for Oxford County Ernie Hardeman, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Council of Ontario Construction Associations, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the City of Greater Sudbury for further action.

.Carried

- ii. Karen Martin, Clerk, Township of Zorra re: Opposing Strong Mayor Powers

RESOLUTION #11

Moved by – Councillor Demarest

Seconded by – Councillor Young

Whereas the Ontario government has expanded the "strong mayor" powers to 169 additional municipalities under the proposed legislation, which would grant mayors in these municipalities more authority, particularly concerning the control of municipal budgets and planning decisions;

And Whereas this proposal has raised significant concerns regarding the centralization of power, erosion of local democracy, reduced accountability, and the potential for the abuse of power;

And Whereas the proposed expansion of strong mayor powers undermines the collaborative nature of municipal governance, and diminishes the role of elected municipal councillors in representing the diverse interests of the community;

And Whereas concerns have been raised about the negative impacts on public trust, democratic participation, and municipal decision-making processes, if mayors are given the ability to bypass council decisions without adequate consultation or oversight;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim opposes the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers;

And That the Council formally expresses its opposition to the Ontario government's proposal to expand Strong Mayor Powers to preserve local democracy, transparency, and accountability;

And That the Council encourages advocacy for democratic principles and for municipal governance systems that prioritize collaboration, inclusivity, and democratic engagement;

Further Be It Resolved That a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Ontario Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, as well as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for further action.

.Carried

b. General

None.

10. Staff Reports

a. **Trevor Baer – Director of Community Services**

i. CS-25-05 – Potential Partnership Agreement

RESOLUTION #12

Moved by – Councillor Barnes

Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that Report CS-25-05 be received as information; and further,

That Council defer the decision whether to proceed with a partnership agreement with the Drumbo Agricultural Society for the use of their facility to host EarlyON programming to a subsequent meeting.

.Carried

ii. CS-25-06 – Monthly Report

RESOLUTION #13

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that Report CS-25-06 be received as information.

.Carried

b. Jim Borton – Director of Public Works

- i. PW-25-07 – Monthly Report

RESOLUTION #14

Moved by – Councillor Barnes
Seconded by – Councillor Demarest

Be it hereby resolved that Report PW-25-07 be received as information.

.Carried

c. Sarah Matheson – Clerk

- i. DC-25-05 – Noise Exemption Request – Great Lakes ATV Club

RESOLUTION #15

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that Report DC-25-05 be received as information;
and,

That Council authorizes an exemption to Section 2 of the Township's Noise By-law 2357-2023 for the Great Lakes ATV Club for their members rides to be held on:

- Saturday, July 12th, 2025 or Saturday, July 19th, 2025;
- Saturday, August 23rd, 2025;
- Saturday, September 20th, 2025; and,
- Saturday, October 18th, 2025.

Each ride is to be held on the trail located on Township Road 9, 0.5 kilometers east of 846148 Township Road 9 in Bright, Township of Blandford-Blenheim; and further,

That Council provide direction to staff to notify enforcement staff and the OPP of the noise by-law exemption approved by Council.

.Carried

11. Reports from Council Members

Mayor Peterson reported on the Plattsville Firefighters Breakfast is occurring on Saturday as well as the Princeton 50th Anniversary of Blandford-Blenheim from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. Councillor Young reported of her attendance at a TVDSB Meeting, regarding partnerships. Councillor Young noted that childcare spaces have decreased by 75%, the reason being that the spaces didn't move quickly enough and were moved to other areas that needed them. Mayor Peterson reported regarding the red tape surrounded by the use of the TVDSB facilities. Councillor Young responded that there are limited facilities in Blandford-Blenheim due to regulations and rules.

12. Unfinished Business

None.

13. Motions and Notices of Motion

None.

14. New Business

None.

15. Closed Session

- a. Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal employees. [s. 239 (2)(b)]

Re: REODC Board Member Appointment

RESOLUTION #16

Moved by – Councillor Demarest
Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that Council move into Closed Session under the authority of Section 239 of the Municipal Act at 6:11 p.m. to discuss:

- a. Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal employees. [s. 239 (2)(b)]

Re: REODC Board Member Appointment

.Carried

RESOLUTION #17

Moved by – Councillor Demarest

Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that that Council does now adjourn from Closed Session and resume into Open Session at 6:22 p.m. and reports the following:

That Council provided direction to staff regarding Report CAO-25-12, recommending Keith Zehr for appointment to the ROEDC Board of Directors.

.Carried

16. By-laws

RESOLUTION #18

Moved by – Councillor Barnes

Seconded by – Councillor Banbury

Be it hereby resolved that the following By-laws be now read a first and second time:

- a. 2495-2025, Being a By-Law to amend Zoning By-Law Number 1360-2002, as amended (ZN1-25-02); and,
- b. 2496-2025, Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council.

.Carried

RESOLUTION #19

Moved by – Councillor Demarest

Seconded by – Councillor Young

Be it hereby resolved that the following By-laws be now read a third and final time:

- a. 2495-2025, Being a By-Law to amend Zoning By-Law Number 1360-2002, as amended (ZN1-25-02); and,
- b. 2496-2025, Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council.

.Carried

17. Other Business

None.

18. Adjournment and Next Meeting

RESOLUTION #20

Moved by – Councillor Demarest

Seconded by – Councillor Barnes

Whereas business before Council has been completed at 6:23 p.m.;

Be it hereby resolved that Council adjourn to meet again on Wednesday, May 21st, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

.Carried

Mark Peterson, Mayor
Township of Blandford-Blenheim

Sarah Matheson, Clerk
Township of Blandford-Blenheim



AORS

PROMOTING **KNOWLEDGE**. PURSUING **EXCELLENCE**.

Proudly
Hosted
By:



OXFORD COUNTY ROAD
SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION

2025 Municipal Public Works Trade Show

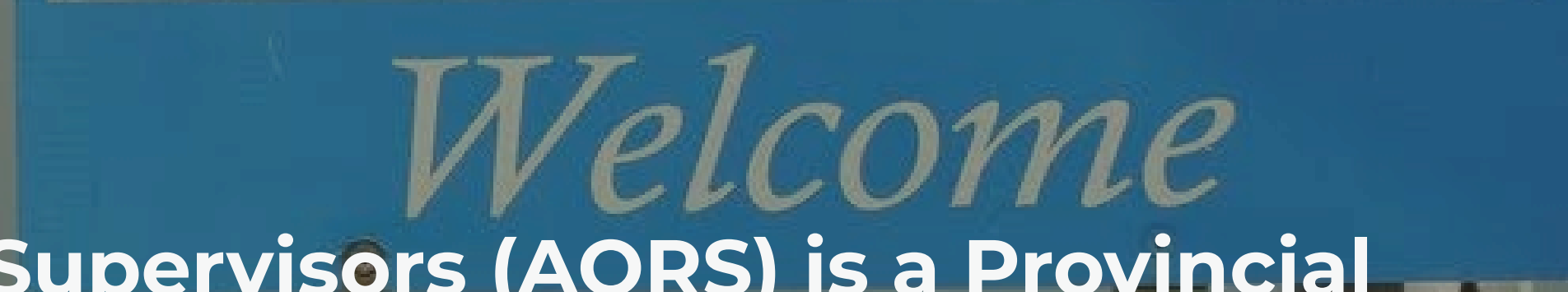
JUNE 4 - 5, 2025

WOODSTOCK FAIRGROUNDS



AORS

PROMOTING **KNOWLEDGE**. PURSUING **EXCELLENCE**.



The Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) is a Provincial association of public works professionals dedicated to providing high-quality public services through certification, educational programs and networking amongst its members.

AORS has over 2,000 members across the Province of Ontario with 34 local associations. One of these associations being the Oxford County Road Supervisors Association representing Oxford County, and all of the lower-tier municipalities.



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AORS Municipal Public Works Trade Show

Over 200 Exhibitors From Across Ontario, and Canada

Over 2,000 Visitors Expected Over The Course of Two Days

Local Hotels Are Sold Out! Local Restaurants and Businesses Will Experience Increased Business Over The Trade Show

Advertising with Rogers Sports & Media (including CityTV, Breakfast Television, Sportsnet and Local Radio stations) To Promote Trade Show and Oxford County

Not Just For Municipal Public Works Industry! Construction, Drainage and Agricultural Sectors Can All Benefit From The Trade Show!



AORS

PROMOTING **KNOWLEDGE**. PURSUING **EXCELLENCE**.

Why Public Works?

Invitations have gone out to local secondary schools to invite students to the trade show.

Classes will receive a presentation on the exciting and rewarding careers in municipal public works, and the benefits in working for their community before being able to go out and visit with exhibitors.

Through generous sponsorships, we are also able to provide the students visiting with a free lunch, as well as cover the costs of transportation to the trade show.



AORS
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Ross McKenzie Memorial Golf Tournament

The very first Ross McKenzie Memorial Golf Tournament was hosted in 1994 in conjunction with the Oxford County Trade Show!

June 3rd, 2025 at the Craigowan Golf Course

144 golfers - you are welcome to golf with us!

Visit the www.aors.on.ca website, or contact Dan Locke at the City of Woodstock to register!



AORS

PROMOTING **KNOWLEDGE**. PURSUING **EXCELLENCE**.

Proudly
Hosted
By:



OXFORD COUNTY ROAD
SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION

2025 Municipal Public Works Trade Show

JUNE 4 - 5, 2025

WOODSTOCK FAIRGROUNDS



Jule: Advancing Energy Resilience and EV Charging Across Canada

Company Overview

Jule is a Canadian pioneer in Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and Level 3 fast charging solutions, offering a resilient alternative to direct-to-grid electric vehicle (EV) charging. Formerly known as eCAMION, Jule has led battery and energy innovation since 2010. With deep roots in Canadian innovation and a long-standing R&D partnership with the University of Toronto, Jule developed and deployed the world's first DC-sourced fast charger integrated with BESS—right here in Canada. Jule's solutions are proudly manufactured and engineered in Scarborough, Ontario, with installations active across multiple provinces. The company's mission is to help Canada meet its electrification goals while improving grid resilience and supporting infrastructure equity across both urban and rural communities.

Strengthening Canada's Grid with Energy Storage

As Canada accelerates its electrification transition through programs like Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program (ZEVIP), the Electric Vehicle Network (EVON), and initiatives under the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO), grid resilience is more important than ever. Jule's BESS-integrated EV charging solutions directly support these national and provincial efforts by:

Improving Grid Resilience: Jule's systems deliver Level 3 fast charging without overloading local grid infrastructure, smoothing demand and enhancing reliability.

Supporting Climate Readiness: During grid failures or weather disruptions, Jule's energy storage enables continued operation—crucial in remote and weather-prone regions.

Enabling Rapid, Scalable Deployment: Jule's chargers do not require costly or time-intensive utility upgrades, accelerating deployment in underserved and rural areas.

Driving Impact Across Canada

Jule's systems are actively supporting the goals of Canada's clean transportation initiatives by:

Collaborating with NRCan and EVON to expand charging infrastructure across regional corridors. Enabling public and private fleet operators to electrify with confidence, thanks to dependable, high-speed charging backed by energy storage. Partnering with municipalities and utilities to bring Level 3 charging to areas where the grid alone can't meet rising demand. From installations at the University of Toronto to deployments at Ford dealerships and public locations in Ontario, Jule is proving that fast, reliable charging can be achieved without waiting for grid upgrades.

Partner with Jule

As Canada continues to invest in sustainable transportation and clean energy infrastructure, Jule is here to accelerate the transition. Our scalable, grid-resilient solutions are aligned with national and provincial strategies to decarbonize transportation while supporting energy reliability.



450 Midwest Road, Toronto
M1P 3A9, ON, Canada

+1 (855) 567-5853

sales@ecamion.com

www.julepower.com



May 15, 2025

To: The Township of Blandford-Blenheim

CC; Municipal Clerk, Fire Protective Services, Health Dept and OPP

The Drumbo Firefighters Association is hosting a Co-Ed Softball tournament on Saturday June 14, 2025, from 0800 to 2000. This event is taking place at the Drumbo Park located at 41 Centre St in Drumbo. We will be utilizing 2 baseball diamonds, the concession booth, and the lower pavilion where a licensed area to serve alcohol will be established. In case of inclement weather, our rain date will be Sunday June 15, 2025.

Thank you

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Ali', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patrick Ali

Drumbo Firefighters Association



TOWNSHIP OF BLANDFORD-BLENHEIM

Agenda Item

To:	Members of Council	From:	Drew Davidson Director of Protective Services
Reviewed By:	Josh Brick, CAO	Date:	May 12 th , 2025
Subject:	April Monthly Report	Council Meeting Date:	May 21 st , 2025
Report #:	FC-25-08		

Recommendation:

That Report FC-25-08 is received as information.

Background:

To provide Council with an update regarding the activities of the Protective Services Department, for the month of April 2025.

Analysis/Discussion:

Meetings, Courses and Training Attended:

1. Project Meeting

Princeton Drainage Project – Phase 4 (Pre-Construction Meeting)

The pre-construction meeting for Phase 4 of the Princeton Drainage Project was attended, focusing on project scope, timelines, and coordination with protective services to ensure the safety and efficiency of the project's execution.

2. Training and Community Engagement

Camp 85 – Information Night and Registration Update

- An information night for Camp 85 was held at Station 83, with a high level of community engagement and attendance.
- We are pleased to report that 20 participants are registered, and the camp is officially full for this year.
- Planning is ongoing to deliver an impactful and educational program centered around fire safety, leadership, and teamwork.

RFSOC Recruit Class – Station 84 Training

- On April 25–26, Station 84 hosted the RFSOC recruit class, which included training in forcible entry, scene size-up, and a full day of auto extrication.
- These practical training sessions are essential to preparing recruits for their NFPA 1001 certification, ensuring their readiness for active service.

OAFC Chief Officer 101 Course

- On April 30, our Fire Chief and Deputy Chief participated in the OAFC Chief Officer 101 course at the Mid-Term Conference in Mississauga.
- This course is designed to equip new and emerging fire chiefs with the leadership skills necessary to excel in their roles.
- Insights shared by experienced fire chiefs offered valuable perspectives on leadership challenges and best practices in fire service management.

3. Staffing and Recruitment**RFSOC Training Officer Appointment**

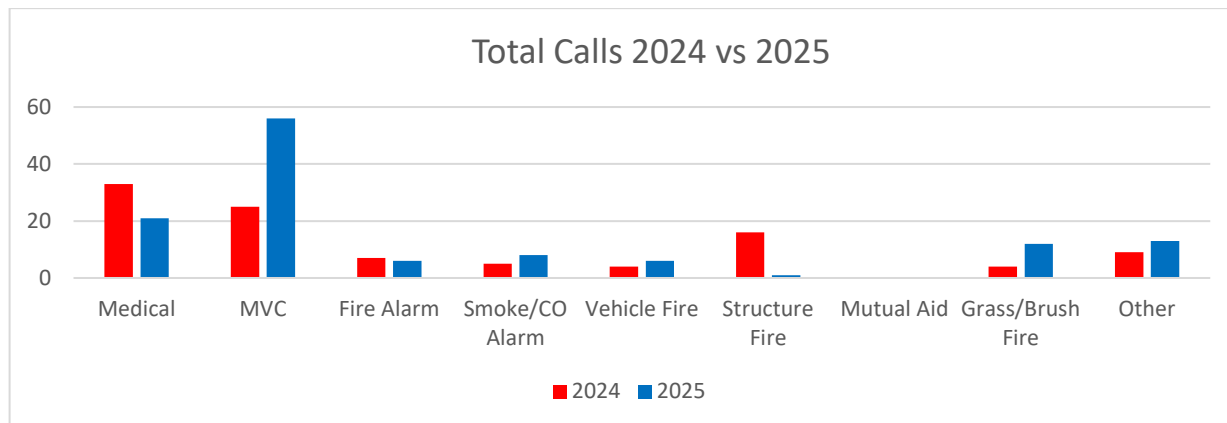
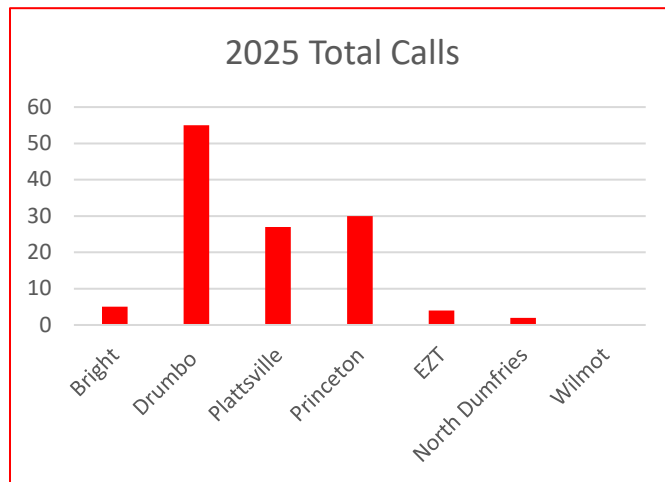
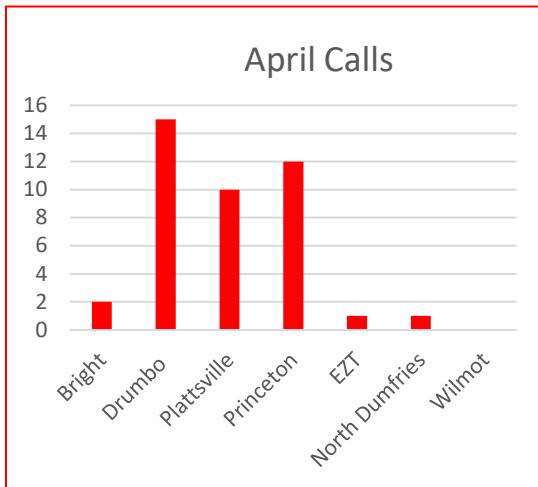
- Interviews were recently conducted to fill the Training Officer position for the Regional Fire Services of Oxford County (RFSOC).
- We are pleased to announce that Courtney Detzler, a dedicated member of our team, has been appointed to this important role.
- This appointment highlights the professionalism within our department and strengthens our leadership role in regional fire training.

Upcoming Department Events**June**

- **June 14** – Drumbo Firefighters Ball Tournament

Fire:

- 46 burn permits were issued in April 2025
- April 2025 monthly fire calls with annual comparisons (included)

April Fire Reports:**CEMC – April 2025**

- Attended multiple briefings on significant events throughout the month via zoom meetings
- Began preparations for upcoming Emergency Preparedness Week in May

Respectfully submitted by:

Drew Davidson
Director of Protective Services



TOWNSHIP OF BLANDFORD-BLENHEIM

Agenda Item

To:	Members of Council	From:	Ray Belanger, CBO
Reviewed By:	Josh Brick, CAO	Date:	May 15, 2025
Subject:	Monthly Report to Council	Council Meeting Date:	April 21, 2025
Report #:	CBO-25-5		

Recommendation:

That report CBO-25-5 be received as information.

Background:

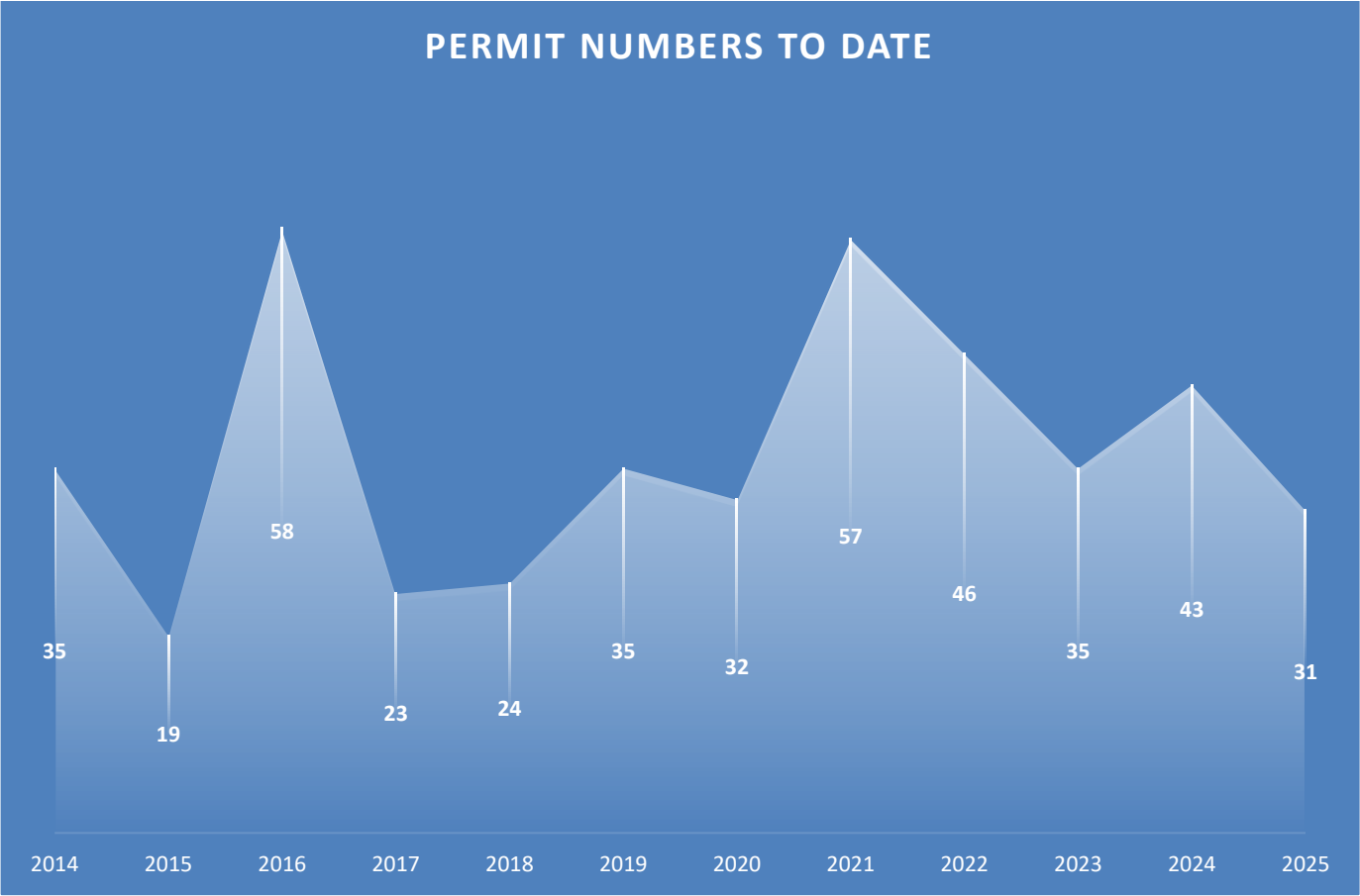
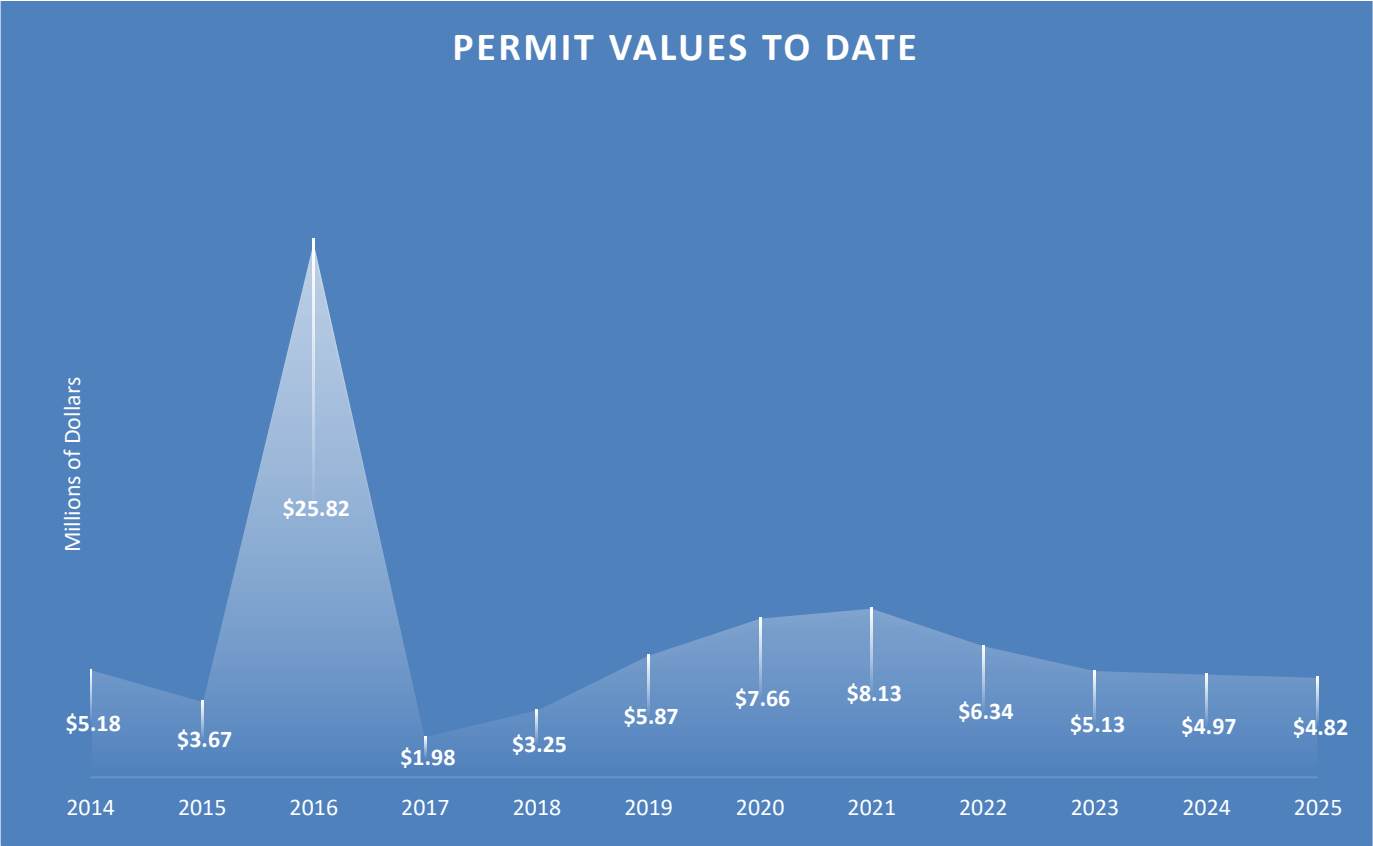
To provide Council with an update regarding the monthly building activities for the period ending on April 30, 2025.

Building Department Updates:

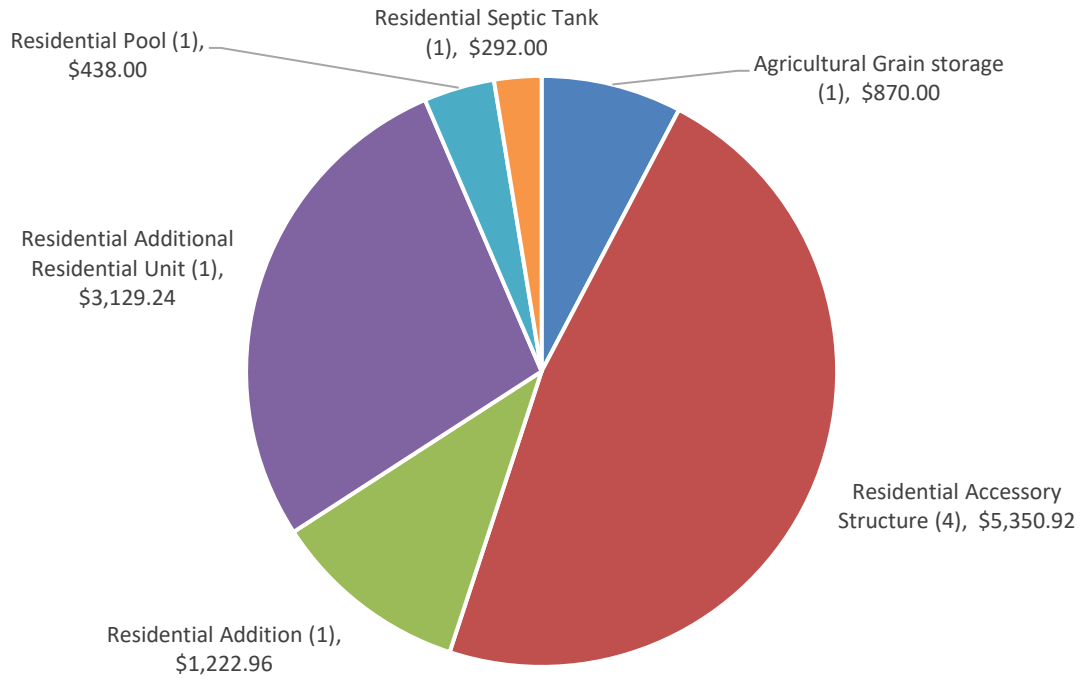
- The building department issued 9 permits for the month of April 2025.

Respectfully submitted by:

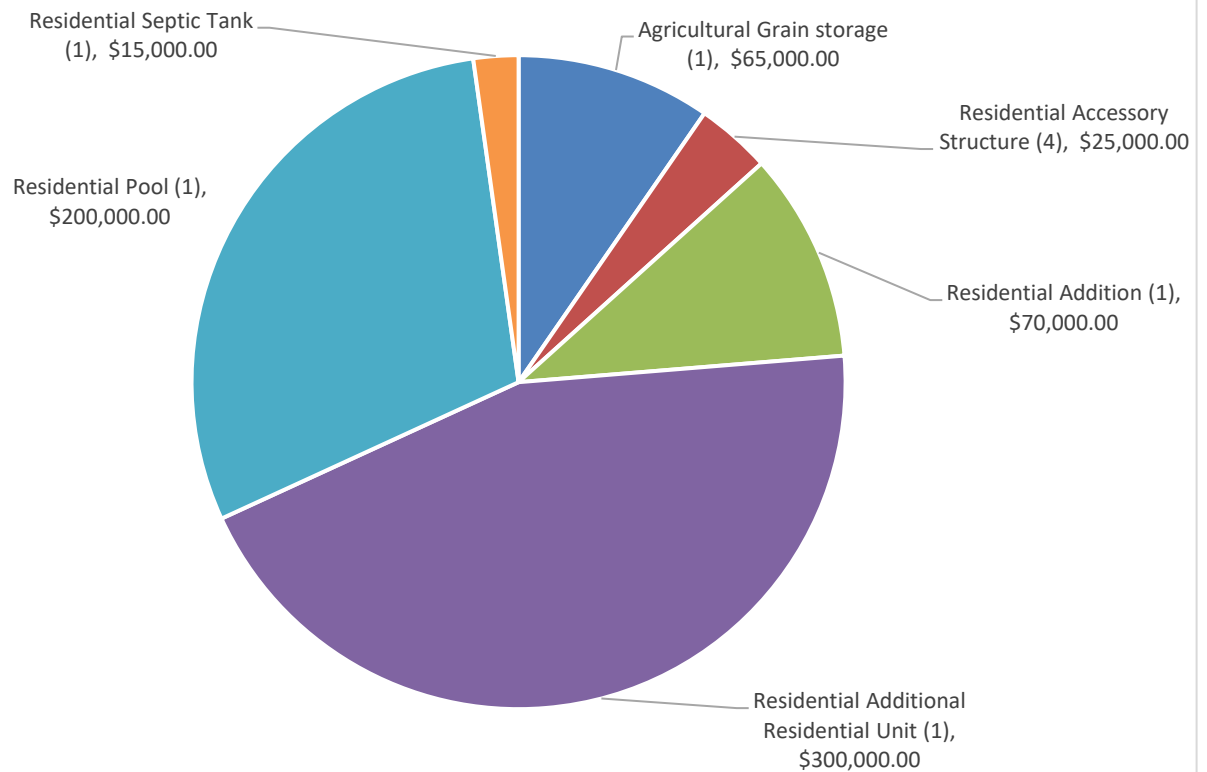
Ray Belanger
CBO



Permit Fees



Permit Values





TOWNSHIP OF BLANDFORD-BLENHEIM

To:	Members of Council	From:	Sarah Matheson, Clerk
Reviewed By:	Josh Brick, CAO	Date:	May 15, 2025
Subject:	Alternate Voting Method for the 2026 Municipal Election	Council Meeting Date:	May 21, 2025
Report #:	DC-25-06		

Recommendation:

That Report DC-25-06 be received as information; and

That Council approves the use of alternate voting methods (internet and telephone) for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election; and further,

That Council directs staff to prepare a 2026 Municipal Election Method of Voting By-Law for consideration at a future meeting of Council.

Background:

The next Municipal Election is scheduled to take place on Monday October 26, 2026.

Section 42(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act (MEA)* states:

*“42 (1) The council of a local municipality may pass by-laws,
(a) authorizing the use of voting and vote-counting equipment such as voting machines, voting recorders or optical scanning vote tabulators;
(b) authorizing electors to use an alternative voting method, such as voting by mail or by telephone, that does not require electors to attend at a voting place in order to vote. 1996, c. 32, Sched., s. 42 (1).”*

The decision regarding vote counting equipment and alternative voting methods must be made by May 1st in the year of the election. Furthermore, the Clerk must establish procedures and forms for the use of any voting and vote-counting equipment authorized by by-law by June 1 in the year of a regular election.

Early Council approval will allow staff sufficient time to procure and prepare election services in collaboration with neighbouring municipalities and ensure a secure, accessible, and efficient election process.

The last Municipal Election was held in October of 2022.

Analysis & Discussion:

Due to procurement requirements for election equipment, staff is seeking Council's guidance to ensure sufficient time for the Request for Proposals (RFP) process, contract evaluation and award, as well as the creation of necessary procedures, forms, and a focused outreach strategy.

Options for election administration in the 2026 election were presented at the April 2, 2025 Meeting of Council for Council's consideration (Report DC-25-04, Attached).

Dean Smith, Owner of Intelivote Election Systems delegated to Council virtually at the May 7, 2025 Meeting of Council to give a high-level overview of the alternate vote method of vote by internet, showing how the interface appears to the voter.

Financial Considerations:

Financial considerations for the 2026 municipal election will be determined by the method chosen by Council.

Staff has sought early estimates from vendors to look at the costs of providing for different voting options. Estimated cost is provided in a table below, and are subject to change based on procurement. Election costs are also dependent on any complexities that may arise such as need for legal advice or compliance audit.

Method	Estimated Cost
Vote by Internet / Telephone	\$40,000.00

For reference, total expenses of the 2022 election (traditional paper ballot) came in at \$43,844.43 with 25.47% voter turnout.

All municipal election expenses are funded by the Election Reserve Fund. Funds have been budgeted and allocated to the Election Reserve fund, in the amount of \$10,462.00 in 2023, and \$5,231.00 for 2025, with a current total of \$15,693.00 in the fund.

Attachments:

Report DC-25-04.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sarah Matheson,
Clerk

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BLANDFORD-BLENHEIM
BY-LAW NUMBER 2497-2025**

Being a by-law to provide for the adoption of budgetary estimates and tax rates for 2025, and to further provide for penalty and interest in default of payment.

WHEREAS, Section 290 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001 c.25, as amended, provides that the Council of a local municipality shall prepare and adopt estimates of all sums required during the year for the purposes of the municipality,

AND WHEREAS, Section 312 of the said Act provides that the Council of a local municipality shall, after the adoption of estimates for the year, pass a by-law to levy a separate tax rate on the assessment in each property class, and

AND WHEREAS, Section 307 and 308 of the said Act require tax rates to be established in the same proportion to tax ratios; and

AND WHEREAS regulations require reductions in certain tax rates for certain classes or subclasses of property; and

AND WHEREAS the Assessment Roll prepared November 1, 2024 and upon which the taxes for 2025 are to be levied, was certified by the Assessment Commissioner, and the whole of assessment for real property, according to the last Assessment Roll, and further modified to reflect changes of the Assessment Review Board, Severances and Section 442 Tax Write-Offs.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim enacts as follows:

- 1) That the budget estimates setting out the revenues and expenditures as detailed in the Budget Estimates for the year 2025, and endorsed by by-law 2483-2025, February 5, 2025, raising the following amounts from realty taxation be adopted (Schedule "A"):
 - (a) For general municipal purposes the net levy of \$7,548,458;
 - (b) For county purposes the net levy of \$7,425,327;
 - (c) For school purposes the net levy of \$3,290,634.
- 2) That the tax rates hereby adopted for each class for the year 2025, excluding special charges or local improvements collected as taxes, shall be the tax rates as listed on Schedule "B" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law and the tax rate for each class shall be applied against the whole of the assessment for real property for that particular class and purpose.
- 3) That in accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001 S.O. 2001 and the Assessment Act, the Treasurer may strike from the roll, taxes that by reasons of a decision under Section 357, 358 or 359 or of a decision of a judge of any court are uncollectible and/or refund any overpayment received.

- 4) That every owner shall be taxed according to the tax rates in this by-law. The taxes for a particular property shall be calculated by applying the Current Value Assessment against the tax rates set out and further adjusted as required by the provisions of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001. Such taxes shall become due and payable in two installments as follows:

ALL PROPERTY CLASSES:

FIRST INSTALMENT Friday, August 29th, 2025

SECOND INSTALMENT Friday, October 31st, 2025

Notice of such taxes due shall be sent by first class mail (or e-mail if requested) to those persons shown as liable for the payment of taxes.

- 5) That the taxes shall be levied and collected as well as such other rates and/or Special Area Rates, pursuant to the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001 and/or the Drainage Act.
- 6) That a charge as a penalty of 1 and $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent on the amount of any outstanding taxes levied in 2025 shall be made on the first day of default and on the first day of each calendar month thereafter in which default continues until December 31st, 2025, and any such additional amounts shall be levied and collected in the same manner as if they had been originally imposed with and formed part of the taxes levied under this by-law. The penalty charges indicated in this section shall be waived for those taxpayers participating in the Monthly Preauthorized Payment Plan provided the payments are made as agreed and without default.
- 7) That interest of 1 and $\frac{1}{4}$ percent on the amount of any taxes due and unpaid after December 31st, 2025, shall be charged on the first day of each calendar month thereafter in which default continues.

This by-law shall come into effect on the date of the final passing thereof.

By-law **READ** a **FIRST** and **SECOND** time this 21st day of May, 2025.

By-Law **READ** a **THIRD** time and **ENACTED** in Open Council this 21st day of May, 2025.

(SEAL)

Mark Peterson, Mayor

Sarah Matheson, Clerk

**Township of Blandford-Blenheim
2025 Combined Taxation Levy**

"Schedule A"

Tax Classes	Assessments	Township Tax Rate	Township Levy by class	County Tax Rates	County Levy by class	Education Tax Rate	Education Levy by class	Total Tax Rate
Residential	937,007,413.00	0.00531741	\$ 4,982,452.59	0.00523067	\$ 4,901,176.56	0.00153000	\$ 1,433,621.34	0.01207808
Residential Farmland awaiting Development	-	0.00239283	\$ -	0.00235380	\$ -	0.00068850	\$ -	0.00543513
Multi Residential	4,059,500.00	0.01063482	\$ 43,172.05	0.01046134	\$ 42,467.81	0.00153000	\$ 6,211.04	0.02262616
Multi Residential - New Construction	1,939,000.00	0.00531741	\$ 10,310.46	0.00523067	\$ 10,142.27	0.00153000	\$ 2,966.67	0.01207808
Commercial -Full	65,816,536.00	0.01011265	\$ 665,579.59	0.00994769	\$ 654,722.50	0.00880000	\$ 579,185.52	0.02886034
Vacant unit/excess land	589,500.00	0.00707885	\$ 4,172.98	0.00696338	\$ 4,104.91	0.00880000	\$ 5,187.60	0.02284223
Vacant land	2,252,400.00	0.00707885	\$ 15,944.40	0.00696338	\$ 15,684.32	0.00880000	\$ 19,821.12	0.02284223
Small Scale On Farm Business	16,600.00	0.01011265	\$ 167.87	0.00994769	\$ 165.13	0.00220000	\$ 36.52	0.02226034
Industrial - full	8,438,500.00	0.01398478	\$ 118,010.57	0.01375666	\$ 116,085.58	0.00880000	\$ 74,258.80	0.03654144
Industrial - New Construction	-	0.01398478	\$ -	0.01375666	\$ -	0.00880000	\$ -	0.03654144
Vacant unit/excess land	-	0.00909011	\$ -	0.00894183	\$ -	0.00880000	\$ -	0.02683194
Vacant land	400,000.00	0.00909011	\$ 3,636.04	0.00894183	\$ 3,576.73	0.00880000	\$ 3,520.00	0.02683194
Small Scale On Farm Business	-	0.01398478	\$ -	0.01375666	\$ -	0.00220000	\$ -	0.02994144
Large Industrial	2,460,100.00	0.01398478	\$ 34,403.96	0.01375666	\$ 33,842.76	0.00880000	\$ 21,648.88	0.03654144
Vacant unit/excess land	22,900.00	0.00909011	\$ 208.16	0.00894183	\$ 204.77	0.00880000	\$ 201.52	0.02683194
Pipeline	88,945,000.00	0.00669621	\$ 595,594.40	0.00658698	\$ 585,878.94	0.00880000	\$ 782,716.00	0.02208319
Farmland	878,924,039.00	0.00115760	\$ 1,017,442.47	0.00113872	\$ 1,000,848.38	0.00038250	\$ 336,188.44	0.00267882
Managed Forest	3,208,400.00	0.00132935	\$ 4,265.09	0.00130767	\$ 4,195.53	0.00038250	\$ 1,227.21	0.00301952
New Construction Commercial: Full	-	0.01011265	\$ -	0.00994769	\$ -	0.00880000	\$ -	0.02886034
Aggregate Extraction Taxable: Full	4,666,000.00	0.01137951	\$ 53,096.79	0.01119388	\$ 52,230.64	0.00511000	\$ 23,843.26	0.02768339
	1,994,079,888.00		<u>\$ 7,548,457.42</u>		<u>\$ 7,425,326.83</u>		<u>\$ 3,290,633.92</u>	

**The Township of Blandford-Blenheim
2025 Summary of Tax Rates**

Schedule "B"

Tax Class	Township Tax Rate	County Tax Rates	Education Tax Rates	Totals
Residential	0.00531741	0.00523067	0.00153000	0.01207808
Residential Farmland Awaiting Development	0.00239283	0.00235380	0.00068850	0.00543513
Farmland	0.00115760	0.00113872	0.00038250	0.00267882
Multi Residential	0.01063482	0.01046134	0.00153000	0.02262616
Multi-Residential - New Construction	0.00531741	0.00523067	0.00153000	0.01207808
Commercial -Full	0.01011265	0.00994769	0.00880000	0.02886034
Vacant unit/excess land	0.00707885	0.00696338	0.00880000	0.02284223
Vacant land	0.00707885	0.00696338	0.00880000	0.02284223
Small Scale On Farm Business	0.01011265	0.00994769	0.00220000	0.02226034
Industrial - full	0.01398478	0.01375666	0.00880000	0.03654144
Industrial - New Construction	0.01398478	0.01375666	0.00880000	0.03654144
Vacant unit/excess land	0.00909011	0.00894183	0.00880000	0.02683194
Vacant land	0.00909011	0.00894183	0.00880000	0.02683194
Small Scale On Farm Business	0.01398478	0.01375666	0.00220000	0.02994144
Large Industrial	0.01398478	0.01375666	0.00880000	0.03654144
Vacant unit/excess land	0.00909011	0.00894183	0.00880000	0.02683194
Pipeline	0.00669621	0.00658698	0.00880000	0.02208319
Managed Forest	0.00132935	0.00130767	0.00038250	0.00301952
New Construction Commercial - Full	0.01011265	0.00994769	0.00880000	0.02886034
Aggregate Extraction Taxable: Full	0.01137951	0.01119388	0.00511000	0.02768339

THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BLANDFORD-BLENHEIM
BY-LAW NUMBER **2498-2025**

Being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council.

WHEREAS by Section 5 of the *Municipal Act* 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, the powers of a municipal corporation are to be exercised by its Council.

AND WHEREAS by Section 11 of the *Municipal Act* 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, the powers of every Council are to be exercised by by-law;

AND WHEREAS it is deemed expedient that the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim at this meeting be confirmed and adopted by by-law;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim hereby enacts as follows:

1. That the actions of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim in respect of each recommendation contained in the reports of the Committees and each motion and resolution passed and other action taken by the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim, at this meeting held on May 21st, 2025 is hereby adopted and confirmed as if all such proceedings were expressly embodied in this by-law.
2. That the Mayor and proper officials of the Corporation of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the actions of the Council referred to in the proceeding section hereof.
3. That the Mayor and the Clerk be authorized and directed to execute all documents in that behalf and to affix thereto the seal of the Corporation of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim.

By-law read a first and second time this 21st day of May, 2025.

By-law read a third time and finally passed this 21st day of May, 2025.

MAYOR
MARK PETERSON

CLERK
SARAH MATHESON