



A Town for All Seasons



Vision

The Jewel of Georgian Bay, a sustainable community focused on opportunity, growth and healthy living.

Mission

To listen to our residents and collaborate with our neighbours to deliver excellence and quality services that lead Parry Sound to a prosperous, healthy and sustainable future.

Values

The Town of Parry Sound is committed to its five corporate values. These values guide our decision making, our actions and our interactions. They are a foundation for our culture. They "CHART" a course for our future success.

Town Council Meeting



Top row, left to right: Paul Borneman, Doug McCann, Vanessa Backman
Middle row, left to right: Mayor Jamie McGarvey, Brad Horne, Bonnie Keith
Bottom row: Roger Burden

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Mayor's Message

I am pleased to provide you with the 2020-2021 Annual report. These past two years will be forever marked by the impact of the pandemic on our community, and the world. Given the unprecedented nature of COVID-19, how we do business, and how we go about our daily routines, has changed forever.

When I reflect, I continue to be very impressed and proud of the very caring and compassionate community we live in. Throughout the pandemic, many gave their time and resources to help others in need, including essential and frontline workers, volunteers and businesses that demonstrated resiliency and perseverance as they adapted to a rapidly changing environment.

Despite these challenges, there were many exciting initiatives in Parry Sound over the past year that make me feel very optimistic about our future.

Most notably, the Provincial and Federal Governments approved \$23.3m in funding (73.3%) for a Recreation and Cultural facility. The six municipal funding partners signed a partnership agreement, which created a Municipal Services Board to oversee the design, construction and operation of the new facility. The board has First Nations representation from Wasauksing and Shawanaga.

Housing, and removing red tape in the planning process, remains a priority for Council. In 2021 a total of 107 building permits were issued, 76 of which are for new residential units.

In 2020, the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing delegated the authority for Official Plan amendments to the Town reducing approval timelines by several months. In 2021, the Minister approved the Town's request for removal from the Parry Sound Area Planning Board, effective January 1, 2022. Once again, this decision reduces red tape and shortens the approval process.

Our successes demonstrate that when we all work together for a common goal, we can accomplish great things. Collaboration, Conversation and Cooperation are the keys to success.

Thank you, Miigwech,



Mayor Jamie McGarvey



Presenting at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference.



Mayor McGarvey presents Reva Young and her son, Rob, owners of the former Boston Café Chinese Restaurant, with a congratulatory message on 58 years of service.



Honouring Remembrance Day.



Building For Parry Sound's Future

The pandemic-driven “exodus from the south” added to the demand for housing, making construction of residential units even more crucial. In response, your Council worked to support the building of new condominiums, mixed-use residential/commercial buildings, and low-rise apartments.

A Range of Housing Options

Waterfront Development

The Town is working with the province to declare 7 Bay St. surplus to begin the process of redeveloping the waterfront. In fall 2020, Minister of Government and Consumer Services Lisa Thompson visited the site, which is primarily used by the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). In August 2021, the Mayor met with Minister Ross Romano, the new Minister of Government and Consumer Services, and Greg Rickford, MNRF Minister. That was followed by a tour hosted by MNRF staff and attended by Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP Norm Miller, Mayor Jamie McGarvey, Town CAO Clayton Harris and Infrastructure Ontario staff who were researching alternate sites to relocate the MNRF.

Mixed-use Buildings

Eco Development Group received zoning approval to allow a five-storey mixed-use building at 9 and 11 Church St. with a commercial ground floor and residential units above. Council also approved a rezoning at the corner of McMurray at Gibson St. to permit a mixed-use building.

Residential High Density

An application was approved to rezone a George St. property near Tower Hill from Residential Medium Density (R2) to Residential High Density (R3) to allow construction of a 36-unit low-rise apartment building.



Thunder Creek development. Flip to page 5 for more details.

By The Numbers, 2020-2021



76 Residential units



107 Building permits issued*



\$22+M
Construction value of permits

*Permits were issued for a variety of building types including apartments, semis and townhomes.



Top: On October 8, 2020 we hosted MPP Lisa Thompson, former Minister of Government & Consumer Services, and took her on a tour of the Stockey Centre and 7 Bay St.



Left: Construction of the 43-unit luxury waterfront condo development Lighthouse Georgian Bay is well under way on Salt Dock Rd. in Parry Sound.



ECONOMIC GROWTH



Top: There are new public boat slips and a new breakwater (pictured in the distance) at Big Sound Marina. Everyone is welcome to go for a stroll on the breakwater.

Right: Parry Sound Place, a new, modern residential complex with bachelor, one- and two-bedroom units, is located just off Joseph St.



Development Ready and on the Move

In This Case, Breaking Means Building

Installation of a new breakwater at Big Sound Marina is another step in the Town's plan to make the waterfront a people-gathering place. The locally manufactured breakwater is accessible to the public and features additional public boat slips and a surface for strolling to view the bay or go fishing.

A Good Place to Invest

Council's work to establish Parry Sound as a place for business to invest continued throughout 2020 and 2021. The last year saw construction of a major chain hotel, a feature movie shot in town and the arrival of our first cohort of foreign college students.



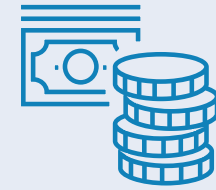
Best Western Hotel

Building Jobs

The Parry Sound and Area Industrial Park sold out its serviced lots including three lots to Singular Solutions Inc. to build a plant for biodegradable food packaging. They will offer well-paid, full-time jobs and provide offshoot work for local businesses such as architects, site clearing companies and construction firms. Singular Solutions will create 100 full-time jobs, including 20 positions in 2023 and 80 in 2024-2025.

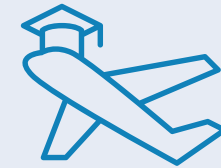
Best Western Hotel

Best Western Hotel on Pine Drive is set to open in September 2022. The \$13.3 million construction project adds 93 premium rooms to the Town's accommodations plus meeting spaces for groups, an indoor pool and gym, and EV charging stations. As hotel guests enjoy Town amenities, they will be contributing to the local economy.



\$42,000

OTT Financial Group, an international investment company that purchased a significant land parcel in the Parry Sound area, signalled a commitment to the area with a \$42,000 donation to the Stockey Centre, the equivalent of a 10-year sponsorship.



\$600,000

West Parry Sound Campus of Canadore College welcomed its first cohort of 28 international students in September 2021. This will infuse more than \$600,000 annually into the local economy.

Thunder Creek is a new townhouse development by a local developer Hall's Construction. Situated in the north end of Parry Sound, Thunder Creek offers one, two and three-bedroom units, some with accessory dwelling units.





Partnering and Supporting

From the outset of the pandemic, the Town supported local businesses with immediate assistance including temporary penalty and interest relief for taxes, water and sewer billings, information and assistance with business funding programs and applications and locating PPE. The Town's help, including through the Business Supports section on the Town's COVID-19 page, continues as our downtown businesses begin to thrive again.

Looking Good

The 2021 Facade Improvement Program awarded \$17,500 to Legend Spirits Company, \$17,500 to Camenzuli Dirocco (formerly Boston Café) and \$5,000 to Jeans Unlimited. Improving the look and feel of Parry Sound retailers will attract more customers, and continue to establish the town as a vibrant shopping destination.



\$40,000

2021 Facade Improvement Program

Red Means Go

The Parry Sound Downtown Business Association (DBA) once again received a Rural Economic Development (RED) Grant offered by the province, and supplemented by the Town. The DBA will use the \$14,900 grant to extend their beautification of the main street to the waterfront.

Great Grand Reopening

The Great Parry Sound Grand Re-Opening gift card campaign encouraged shopping at 20 local retailers that signed up for the program. The Mayor and Councillors supported the campaign, which included monetary donations, while the Town's Economic Development Department provided social media coverage.

Founders Choice Awards

The Parry Sound Area Founders Circle, a grass-roots economic initiative driven by local businesses and entrepreneurs, awarded its first-place \$10,000 Founders Choice Award to Adventure Academy, and the \$5,000 second-place award to Forever BBQ. The Town was the first member of the Founders Circle and supports the group each year by renewing its membership.



I enjoy helping and supporting the community in a manner that is in alignment with the Town's strategic plan to provide more attainable housing and commercial opportunities.

– Parry Sound area resident Frank Camenzuli, who purchased the former Boston Café, and has other projects under development in the Town of Parry Sound

Municipal Collaboration

As a member of the Regional Development Collaborative, the Town is working together with the seven municipal funding partners to plan and grow a sustainable economy for the entire region, and all its residents.



Founders Circle



Top: The Great Parry Sound grand re-opening.

Middle: Connor Industries, known worldwide for its Stanley Aluminum Boats, has seen continual expansion over the past 34 years (including the most recent building shown in the background). They now have 65 employees and continuing to reinvestment in Parry Sound.



Left: *Wickensburg* was filmed in Parry Sound in the fall of 2021 and will be premiering at the Big Sound International Festival in town this summer. The project contributed approximately \$1 million to the local economy through local hiring and accommodation. A sequel is under review.



The Place we call Home

Parry Sound has always been a wonderful place to live but the pandemic renewed our appreciation for our home, and our determination to make it an even better place to live and work. To this end, the Town and its West Parry Sound partners were successful in securing government funding for the long-awaited West Parry Sound Recreation and Cultural Centre (Rec Centre), and for the revitalization of the well known and very popular Waterfront Fitness Trail.

Diving In

In June 2021, funding of \$23.3 million from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program was announced for the West Parry Sound Recreation and Cultural Centre. This amounts to 73.3% of the total cost of the project. For the remaining 26.7% (or \$8.5 million), a partnership agreement was forged between the Town and five local municipalities. Through this agreement, the West Parry Sound Recreation and Cultural Centre Board was created. Based on conceptual designs, the Rec Centre will feature a pool, a gym, fitness room, indoor walking track, multi-purpose rooms, space for programming and inclusive change rooms.



Reinventing the Fitness Trail

In July 2021, Council approved the submission of an application under the Canada Community Revitalization Fund for funding of \$187,000 from FedNor to reinvent the Rotary & Algonquin Regiment Fitness Trail. In addition, the Town will contribute \$62,500. Improvements to the popular, year-round multi-use 6-km trail will include app-based walking tours using interactive then-and-now historical photography, interpretive plaques

showcasing the area's rich history, fence rehabilitation, including a mural, the installation of web cams, Georgian Bay viewing area with binoculars, new park equipment and accessible picnic tables. More than just recreation, the Fitness Trail is a practical way for residents and visitors to access the waterfront, Town Docks, Stockey Centre, Big Sound Marina, retail shops and restaurants along Bay St., and the downtown area.



\$23.3M

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program



Top: In addition to recreational uses, the Fitness Trail is a practical way for residents to access the Town's shops, restaurants and more.

Left: An aerial view of the coming West Parry Sound Recreation and Cultural Centre.



QUALITY
OF LIFE



Top: SPEEDIER's Solar PV system reduces the Town's energy costs with solar panels that generate electricity.



Right: Tesla Powerwalls act as backup power during outages, and send power to the grid during times of peak demand.

Environmental Stewardship

Our Town is nestled on the beautiful shore of Georgian Bay at the mouth of the Seguin River. Calling this amazing place home is a privilege. To safeguard our natural surroundings — for generations to come — the Town continues to implement conservation and environmental stewardship programs.

The Power of Saving

Through the SPEEDIER project, the Town partnered with Lakeland Holding to install technology to better manage electricity demand and prevent power shortages for homes and businesses. Tesla Powerwalls and hot water tank controllers were installed at the Operations Building, Dog Pound, Museum and in residents' homes. The Powerwalls act as backup power during outages, and send power to the grid during times of peak demand. SPEEDIER's Solar PV system is now generating electricity using more than 1,600 solar panels. The system will reduce the Town's energy costs.



EV Stations Out on the Town

Electrical vehicle (EV) service in Parry Sound expanded in 2020 with installation of a charging station at the West Parry Sound District Museum. The Town also partnered with Lakeland Holding to propose three additional EV charging stations at the Stockey Centre, James Street Parking Lot and at the Town Office.

Keeping it Clean

With environmental group Georgian Bay Forever, the Town is running three green programs:

- 1) Trash Trap**, which captures macro plastics in the Seguin River.
- 2) Sea Bin**, a floating "trash can," pulls in debris at the Town Dock, which will be analyzed with the aim of stopping it at the source.
- 3) An experimental washing machine** plastic capture program, launched in August 2019, has seen 97 filters installed in local homes that have captured between 1.5 million and 6.2 million microfibers and microplastics per household — in just over the first three months of the program.



Kinsmen Centennial Park is a multi-sport facility with baseball diamonds, soccer fields, a covered outdoor ice rink and a playground.

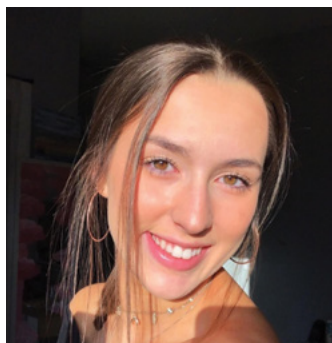


Recognizing Achievement and Community Spirit

The Town's annual awards celebrate the accomplishments of some of our outstanding citizens. The winners are...

Town Civic Scholarship Award

Every year, Council awards a \$500 scholarship to high-achieving post-secondary students. In 2020, the scholarship was presented to **Amy Johns**, a second-year Practical Nursing program student at Fleming College. In 2021, it was awarded to **Stephanie Harris**, a second-year student at Canadore College's Practical Nursing program.



Amy Johns



Stephanie Harris



Linda West



Jason Predie

Order of Parry Sound

Linda West received the Order in 2020 for spearheading the Rotary COVID-19 Response Committee that organized shopping and delivery of hundreds of grocery orders for residents, including the First Nations community.

Jason Predie, a long-time Parry Sound EMS Paramedic and volunteer Firefighter with the Parry Sound Fire Department, received the 2021 Order. Since 2006, Jason has been a driving force behind the annual Parry Sound District EMS Food Drive and EMS Toy Drive.



The Bobby Orr Hall of Fame and the Stockey Centre were honoured with The World Travel and Tourism Council's "Safe Travels" stamp for practising outstanding pandemic protection measures for visitors.



The Show Must (and did!) Go On

In the wake of lockdowns and re-openings, the Stockey Centre ensured that the shows went on. They obtained a grant to enhance the use of online formats like Facebook and YouTube to bring shows like Bands on the Bay to a broader audience in 2020 (and then went live again in 2021). The One-of-a-Kind Christmas Artisan Show and Big Sound International Film Festival were live both years with health and safety protocols securely in place. We tip our hats to the staff at the Stockey Centre!



Despite the stops and starts of lockdowns and re-openings, the Stockey Centre managed to hold shows and the One-of-a-Kind Christmas Artisan market.



Seamlessly Serving Parry Sound During the Pandemic

Despite province-wide pandemic restrictions and lockdowns, the Town continued to respond to residents' questions and requests for service without missing a beat.

Hello, how can we help?

Staff were available via Zoom, by phone and email, and exceptions were made for necessary in-person services such as marriage licences and document commissioning. In these cases, the Town followed health and safety protocols and practices issued by the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit.

Online Saves the Bottom Line

The need for paper, and the time required to get approval signatures, have been significantly reduced thanks to moving services online. This includes regular municipal services such as electronic submission and review of building permits, invoices, parking ticket payments, fire permits, and overnight parking permits. Vendors are also using our online services to submit invoices electronically and accept EFT (electronic funds transfer). Building inspectors have online access now as well, and can make notes to access files in the field, which means greater efficiency and timely responses to inquiries.



Town Office: Bigger, Better, Safer

When the Town office reopened in October 2020, several safety enhancements were in place as part of the office re-opening plan, and supported by guidelines developed to keep the public and staff safe. This included a front-door buzzer system to manage capacity limits, and a larger, accessible service counter with glass partitions.

Essential Services, Check!

Water, wastewater, road maintenance, waste including garbage and recycling pick up, fire protection, support to local businesses — all of the essential services provided by the Town — continued without interruption. Non-essential services such as recreation programs, seniors programming and live performances were reopened when the province deemed it safe.

Vaccination Collaboration

From April to September 2021, thousands of vaccines — sometimes more than 2,000 daily — were administered quickly and efficiently at the Bobby Orr Community Centre clinic. This was thanks to an unprecedented collaboration between the Town, the Development and Protective Services', the Parks and Recreation departments, the Public Health Unit and the West Parry Sound Health Centre.





Top: Water, wastewater, road maintenance, waste including garbage and recycling pick up, fire protection, support to local businesses — all of the essential services provided by the Town — continued without interruption.

Left: In the Town office, several safety enhancements were put in place including a larger, accessible service counter with glass partitions.



Parry Sounds Parks & Recreation employees are pictured planting flowers as the Town prepares to welcome back seasonal residents and visitors to the area.



The Town is making changes to establish its reputation as an employer of choice. This barbeque was held to celebrate and recognize employee contributions. (Photos: Thom Morrissey)



2020 Year End

	Town of Parry Sound	Municipal Average
Net Financial Position per capita	\$ 2,154	\$ 848
Reserves per capita	\$ 2,626	\$ 912
Debt Charges per capita	\$ 1,609	\$ 457
Outstanding Property Taxes	8.9%	8.5%

Managing Taxpayers Dollars

The Town began developing a multi-year Strategic Asset Management Plan in 2019. The Plan identifies the Town's core infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water and wastewater pipes. It includes a condition assessment, life cycle planning and a strategy for its repair, maintenance and eventual replacement. The overarching goal of the Plan, which has a July 2022 deadline, is to create awareness of infrastructure needs over time so that proper planning, including necessary funding, can be planned in advance to minimize any disruption in service to the public. An Asset Management Plan for non-core infrastructure will be completed by 2024.



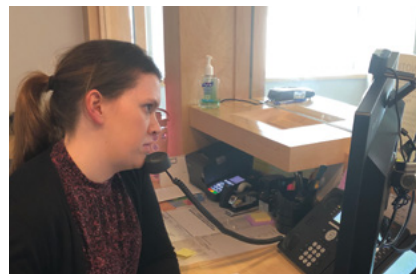
Financial Statements — Clean Financial Audit for the Town

Town auditors BDO Canada, a leading assurance, accounting, tax and advisory firm, completed the annual audit of the Town of Parry Sound's financial position. Once again, BDO issued an unqualified "clean" audit opinion. This is important because BDO, an independent third party, has confirmed that the 2020 financial statements present fairly, in all material respects the financial position of the Town.

Employer of Choice

The Town of Parry Sound recognizes that we are only as good as our people. With that in mind, the Town is making changes to establish its reputation as an employer of choice to attract, hire and retain exceptional employees. Here are some of the changes:

- Hybrid remote/office policy to offer more flexibility and work-life balance.
- Extended benefits from age 68 to 71. This follows the trends of other municipalities that recognize the high cost of recruiting and training new employees, and that current employees, who are valuable and knowledgeable, are working longer.
- Events to celebrate our successes and recognize employee contributions.



Town staff worked throughout Covid to respond to inquiries and requests for service.



Provincially & Federally Funded Town Projects

The Town was successful in advocating for government funding for a number of projects, including funding to improve safety.

Walking the Safety Walk

Safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists are being made on Isabella St. from the St. Charles double railway track crossing to the intersection with Wood St. The Town secured Federal funding in the amount of \$480,000 through the Rail Safety Improvement Program and \$620,000 will be funded by the Town. Safety will be improved with the installation of sidewalks, and the realignment of the intersection of Isabella and Wood St.

The improvements will be completed in advance of the opening of the new JK to grade 12 school on Isabella St.

Modernization Review Improves Technology, Reduces Costs

A Technology Modernization Review that was fully funded by the Province was completed last year. The outcome of the review will see the Town utilizing more innovative technology such as the Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system. AVLs, which are now installed in all Town vehicles, monitor and record location and time, as well as the amount of winter control material distributed. AVL will improve tracking of winter control costs, and in the event of litigation for slip and falls and other accidents, will provide important supporting documentation.



\$480,000
Secured federal funding through the Rail Safety Improvement Program



\$620,000
Funded by The town for Safety Improvements

Making It Happen

Mayor Jamie McGarvey was appointed to the Board of the North Bay Health Unit and appointed to the Presidency of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for a second term.

Rob Beaumont, Manager of Revenue & Taxation for the Town, has been reappointed to the Board of the Ontario Municipal Tax and Revenue Association.



Caitlin Dyer, Curator at the Bobby Orr Hall of Fame, was appointed to the Board of Directors of the International Sport Heritage Association and also holds the position of Vice

Clayton Harris, CAO, was appointed Chair of the Steering Committee to support the West Parry Sound Recreation and Cultural Centre Board, and appointed Vice Chair of the Regional Economic Development Collaborative.

President of Communications on the Board of the Canadian Association of Sport Heritage.



Top: Safety enhancements include a Rail Safety Improvement Program, which received \$480,000 of federal funding and \$620,000 from the Town.



Left: Town vehicles were outfitted with new technology that will improve tracking of winter control costs.



Peek Behind the Curtain

Most often, residents only see the end result of a strategic objective set out by the Town: a new breakwater or railway track crossing improvements or increased housing opportunities. However, getting to that point involves hard work, relationship building with stakeholders, occasional government lobbying, long hours and late nights. In this section, we lift the curtain to give you a closer look.

Cutting Red Tape

The Town successfully lobbied the province to get the authority to approve

amendments to the Town's Official Plan (OP). This is a major achievement. Previously, changes to the OP had to be approved by the province, which could take up to nine months. Now with Council able to provide final approval, the process is significantly shorter. Timing can be critical when closing property acquisitions or meeting construction timelines. The Town was also successful in obtaining provincial approval to be removed from the Parry Sound Area Planning Board. Removal was effective January 1, 2022, giving final approval for consents and severances to Council and again, reducing the timeline,

in this case by a few months, and increasing efficiency.

New Committees to Advise Council

Two new committees, the Waterfront Advisory Committee and the Accessibility Committee, are adding residents' voices to Council deliberations. The Accessibility Committee will review plans and advise on accessibility for such things as infrastructure repair and outdoor recreation. The Waterfront Advisory Committee will identify opportunities to demonstrate environmental stewardship and enhance the waterfront as a people gathering place.



Town gardeners



Parry Sound Friendship Centre

NO PARKING ANYWHERE BUT HERE



CARRINGTON Orchard
The Original Orchard of the Village of Carrington



Top: The Parry Sound Friendship Centre hosted the Walking In Truth event in honour of National Truth & Reconciliation Day, also known as Orange Shirt Day.

Left: Volunteers pose with some of the garbage collected at the annual Pitch In Week.



Photo: Thom Morrissey

Photo above: The Summer Market, which is located at Market Square Park near the library, takes place every Tuesday during the summer and features original designs and handmade gifts by local artists and craftspeople.




-  **C** Collaboration
-  **H** Honesty
-  **A** Accountability
-  **R** Respect
-  **T** Transparency



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