



TOWN OF INNISFIL STAFF REPORT

STAFF REPORT NO.

CRP-021-09

CW DATE June 24th/09

ITEM NO. 6.1

DATE:

June 24, 2009

TO:

Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Members of Council

FROM:

Susan Downs, Director of Corporate Services

SUBJECT:

Ward Boundary Review

CROSS REF.:

Staff Report CRP-016-09

RECOMMENDATION:

It is therefore recommended that:

That Council select the preferred option 1 for re-divided ward boundaries; and

That a by-law to implement new ward boundaries be brought forward for Council's consideration; and

That the Clerk be authorized to take all necessary actions to ensure the new ward boundaries are in place for the next municipal election including making application to the Minister of Municipal Affairs for a regulation to further revise ward boundaries that may be impacted by any revision to the Innisfil/Barrie municipal boundary.

BACKGROUND:

As Council is aware direction was given for the Clerk to report on a re-division of the current ward boundaries. A report was presented to Committee of the Whole on April 15, 2009 (attached). Members of Council were requested to provide comments by April 30, 2009. Further, a public meeting was held on May 13, 2009 to receive comments from the public (minutes attached). Comments received directly by the Clerk from the public are Attachment 3 of this report.

No formal submissions have been received from members of Council. However, informally two (2) Councillors indicated support for Option 2 and two (2) Councillors indicated support for either Option 3 or 4 as set out in the April 15, 2009 report. Comments made at the public meeting did not reflect support for any particular option but there was a degree of opposition to any "strip ward" proposal.

On balance public comment reflected concern that the ward boundaries should not be re-divided until such time as the Innisfil/Barrie municipal boundary issue is resolved. A fair comment at the time. However the potential impact of this is now known with some degree of certainty.

The area that is being proposed to be transferred to Barrie has a population of approximately 500 people. In the event that these lands are transferred to Barrie there would not be a significant impact on the populations of the affected wards.

ANALYSIS/CONSIDERATION:

The above noted report set out a number of options for a re-division of the wards. As stated above there is a degree of opposition from the public to the strip ward proposals. The proposals put forward in the staff report of April 15th, 2009 generally meet the criteria for establishing ward boundaries and any of these would provide a more equitable population distribution than is the case with the current wards. That said, staff is putting forward option 1 (attached) as the preferred option. This is a modified version of 1A in the April 15th, 2009 report. By necessity the lands north of Big Bay Point Road have been included in Ward 6. Option 1 from the April 15th, 2009 report would provide for a better population split between wards 2 and 3, but at the expense of the lakeshore area being removed from ward 3. Should Council determine that the priority is the better distribution in the Ward 2/3 configuration, Option 1 from the April 15th report with the St. John's Road division could be adopted. The numbering of the various wards has been done to retain existing numbers as much as possible.

OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES:

1. Council could select preferred Option 1.
2. Council could opt for the status quo.
3. Council could revise one of the options under consideration and approve that.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

None to be considered.

CONCLUSION:

Recognizing the growing disparity in ward populations, Council has considered proposals for re-divided wards a number of times in recent years. It would be appropriate for Council to approve a ward boundary re-division to be in place for next year's municipal election.

PREPARED BY:



John D. Leach
Town Clerk


REVIEWED BY:

Susan Downs
Director of Corporate Services

APPROVED BY:

Susan Downs
Director of Corporate Services

REVIEWED FOR SUBMISSION



Lawrence Allison
Chief Administrative Officer

Attached:

Staff Report CRP-016-09
Public Meeting Minutes Ward Boundary Review – May 13, 2009
Input Received from Public

Ward Boundary Re-division Preferred Option 1

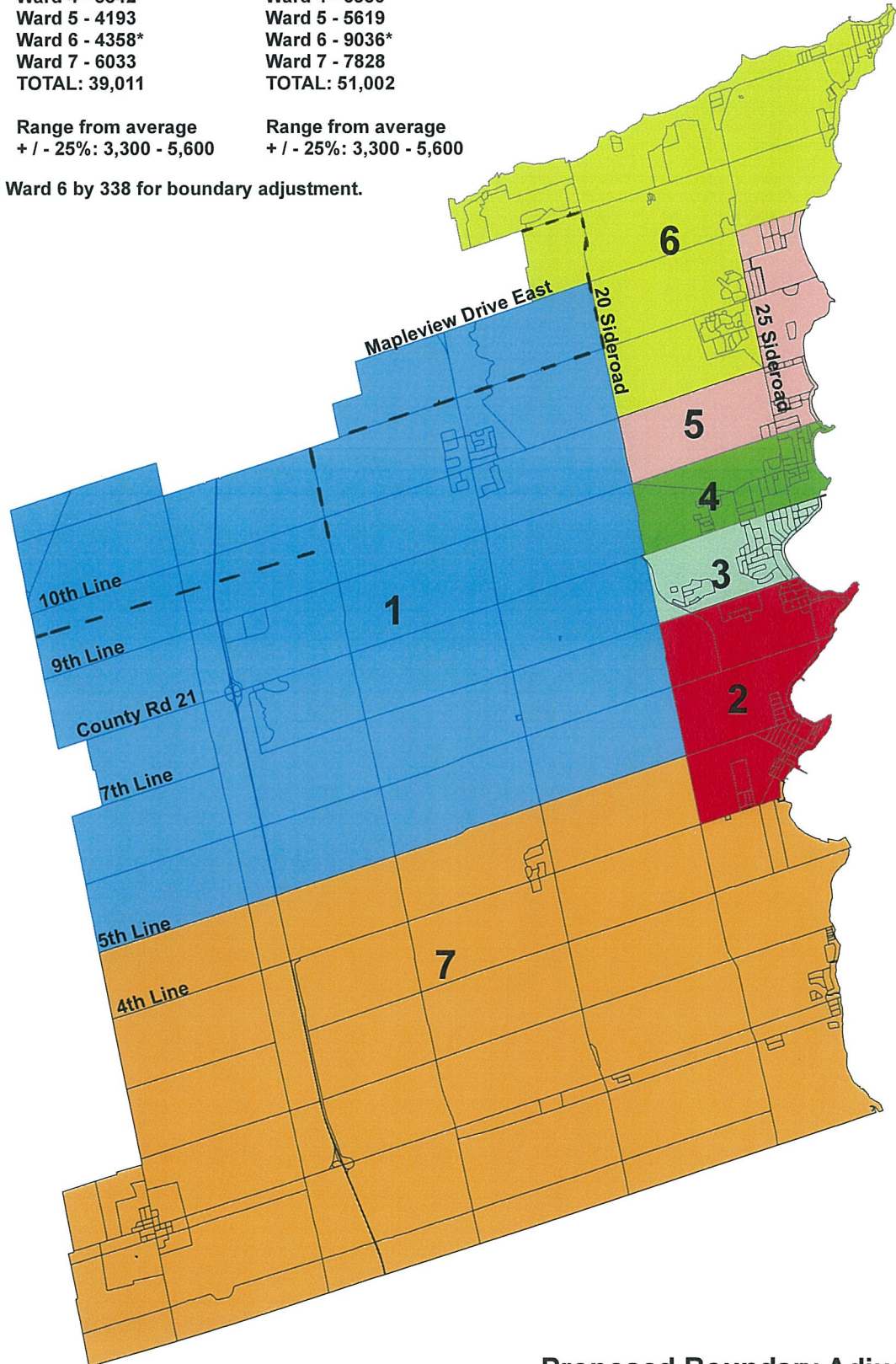
FINAL - Current Population	FINAL - 5 Year Projection	FINAL - 10 Year Projection
Ward 1 - 4284*	Ward 1 - 4363*	Ward 1 - 4438*
Ward 2 - 3526	Ward 2 - 5785	Ward 2 - 7485
Ward 3 - 5339	Ward 3 - 8437	Ward 3 - 10,016
Ward 4 - 4731	Ward 4 - 5842	Ward 4 - 6580
Ward 5 - 3493	Ward 5 - 4193	Ward 5 - 5619
Ward 6 - 4273*	Ward 6 - 4358*	Ward 6 - 9036*
Ward 7 - 5529	Ward 7 - 6033	Ward 7 - 7828
TOTAL: 31,175	TOTAL: 39,011	TOTAL: 51,002

Range from average
+ / - 25%: 3,300 - 5,600

Range from average
+ / - 25%: 3,300 - 5,600

Range from average
+ / - 25%: 3,300 - 5,600

*Ward 1 reduced by 181 and Ward 6 by 338 for boundary adjustment.



--- Proposed Boundary Adjustment