Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure & Cultural Policy
Regional Governance and Bill 134

City of Barrie Mayor Alex Nuttall

November 6, 2023

Barrie

Barrie is a strong single tier municipality

- The City of Barrie continues to be one of Canada's fastest growing and dynamic cities.
- Barrie City Council is committed to working towards our key priorities, which include making Barrie an *affordable place to live, improve community safety, create a thriving community, make infrastructure investments and govern responsibility.*
- As a **strong, single tier municipality Barrie can continue to be a partner to the Province** and continue our work to:
  - get more homes built faster
  - be efficient and get things done, and
  - cut red tape.

Barrie

The Municipal Benchmarking Study released by **BILD** named Barrie as the **overall best municipality** across the GTA **for getting new housing developments approved** for two straight reports.

Getting Houses Built: Barrie is committed to meeting the housing targets set by the Province and being a partner to get houses built.

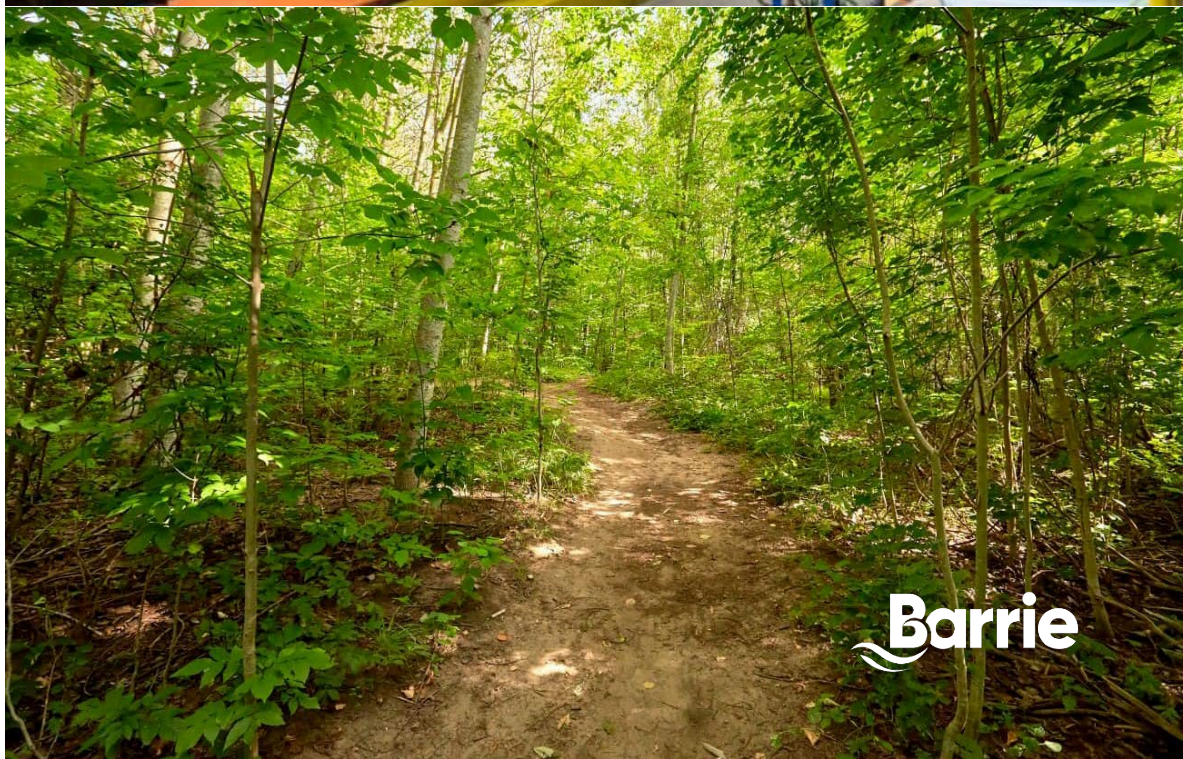
- We are well on our way to reach our target of 23,000 homes. Since January 1, 2023 we have had **1,850 starts** – which **exceeds our annual target of 1,687 by more than 10%.** Barrie is hitting above our weight for building housing.
- In 2023, **Council has approved 4,641 housing units**, and through the Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator we have **approved or have an additional application** coming before Council for an **additional 5,211 housing units.**
- Barrie City Council has identified **surplus lands** in the City that will be designated for housing which is estimated to be **approx. 3,000 units**.

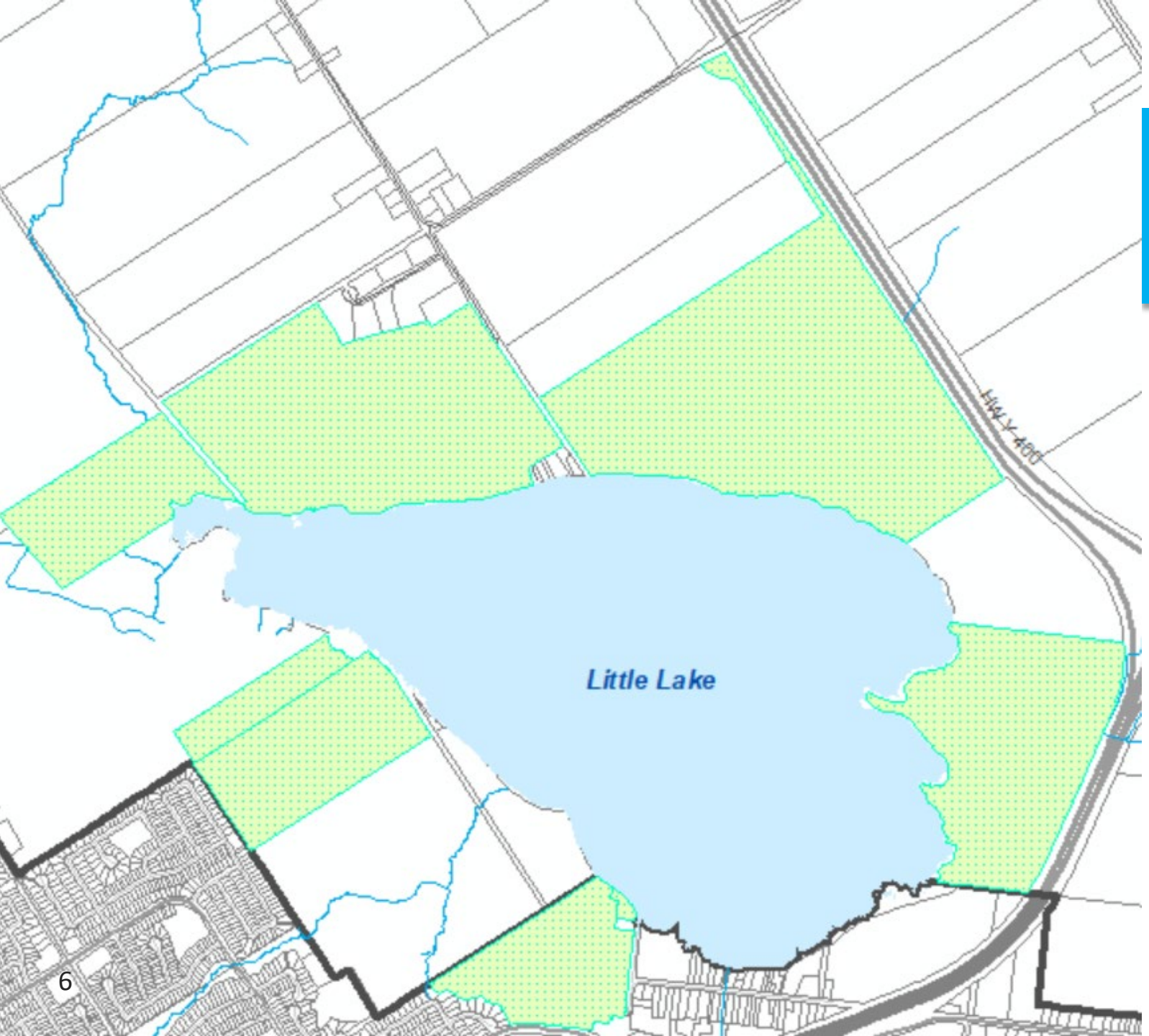
- Barrie currently has a very limited supply of industrial developable land with access to water and wastewater. **We need additional vacant and serviced employment lands beyond the city's existing boundary** to attract new investment and allow existing businesses to expand.
- Barrie is uniquely positioned to provide the services and infrastructure necessary to meet the needs of growing businesses.
- Infrastructure is needed to support new development (water plants, wastewater treatment facility expansion, recreation centres, roads, bridges).

Barrie has invested in an **infrastructure plan that places servicing at the city's boundaries** for connection to water, wastewater and transportation within a single tier government structure.

Four Key Principles

1. Environmental conservation.
2. Value to all municipalities: in addition to taxes from employment lands and cost savings on infrastructure.
3. Employment opportunities for all residents.
4. Potential additional housing opportunities.



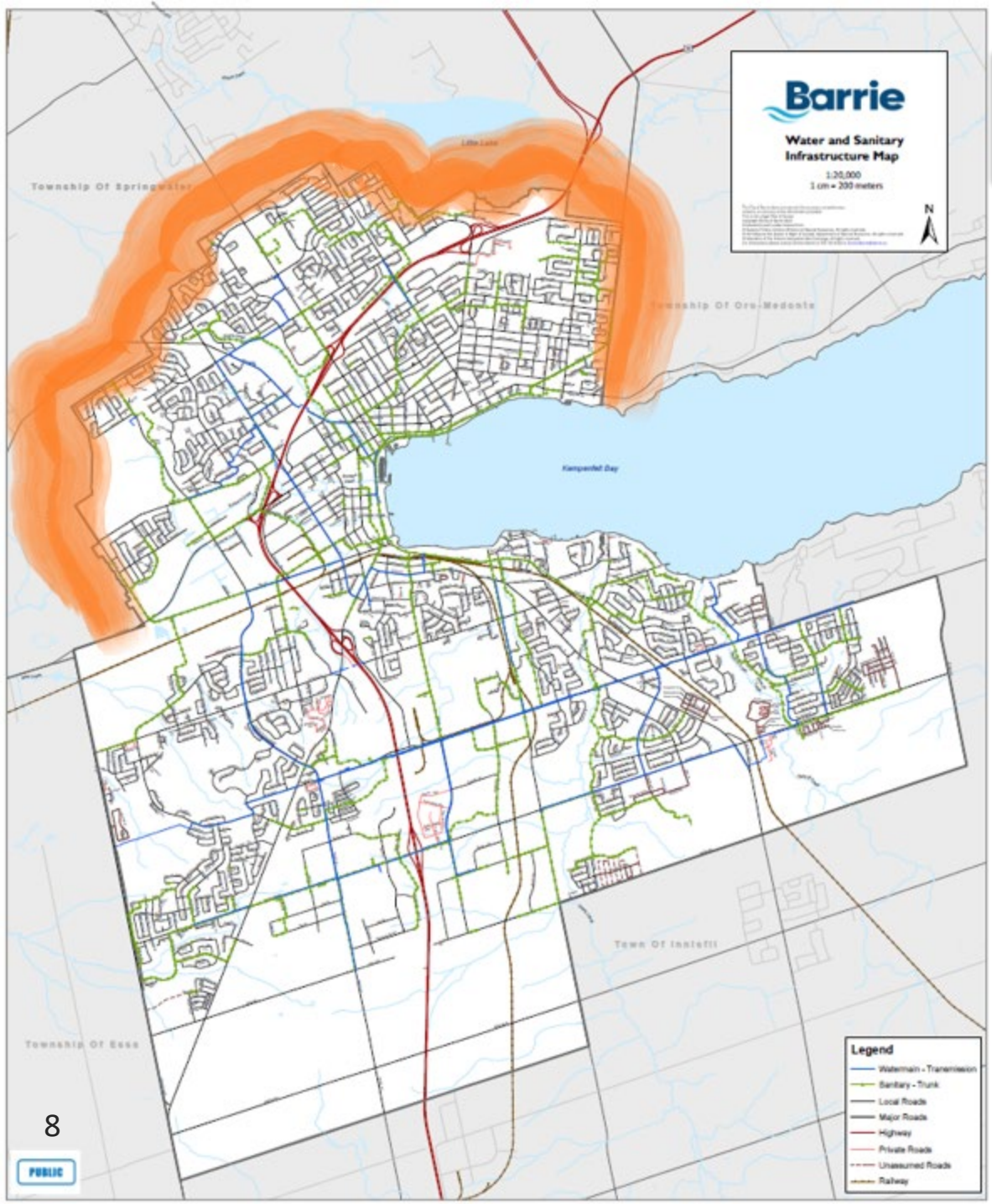


Environmental Conservation

- Over the last several years, Barrie has purchased land around Little Lake as it has become available. We have committed to keep these lands in an environmental trust.
- Any new City owned lands around Little Lake would also be given a Conservation Designation to protect this greenspace forever.

- Barrie is experiencing demand from existing employers who want to expand & grow. **We are constrained by the availability of shovel-ready and available lands**.
- Over the past two weeks, a major Barrie employer has announced they are leaving the City to expand their business as we don't have the available lands.
- Boundary adjustments & subsequent rezoning of lands abutting Barrie's current boundaries would allow for the advancement of **serviced industrial lands.**
- Timing is perfect as our **OP is open for comment** and we are updating our **Master Servicing Plans for the City**. City Council has committed approx. 20M in additional infrastructure spending as part of an employment land strategy.
- This will set up this area for **20+ years of job creation & growth**.

Employment Opportunities for the Area



City Servicing

- Servicing at the boundaries can be expanded or upgraded.
- Available treatment capacity in our water and wastewater systems to support the growth.
- Well positioned for investments in water, wastewater, and transportation network improvements.
- Expanding Barrie's boundary could add approximately 20,000 industrial/ manufacturing/warehousing jobs.

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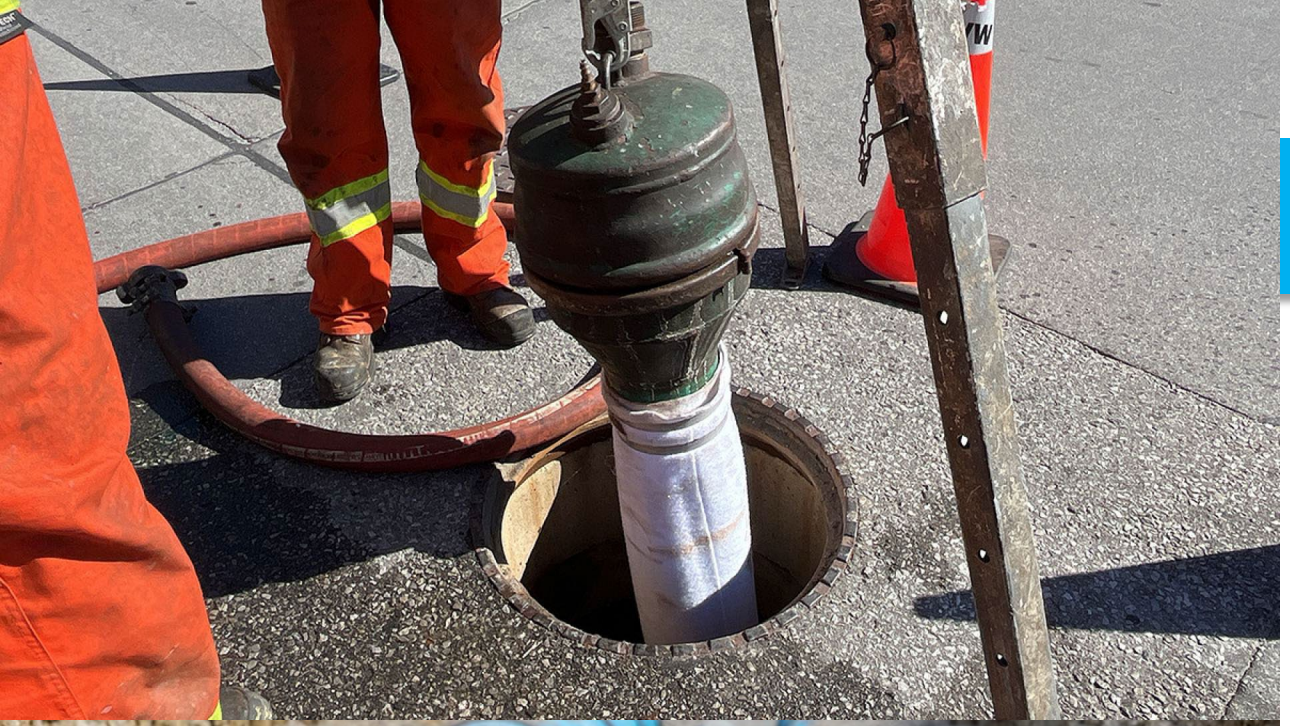

Proposed Details

- Of the land identified as part any boundary expansion, Barrie is prepared to service 10% of the conveyed land back to the host municipality for their own use as a serviced employment hub.

- Municipalities will pay the infrastructure costs associated with their land with no commitment on timing.

- Consideration would be given for % of tax revenue to flow back to municipalities until such time as employment lands were serviced and then it would end.

Strong Single Tier Municipality & Provincial Partner

- As a **single tier municipality**, Barrie can continue to be a **strong partner for the Province** and solve area problems for business expansion and growth and get housing built.
- **City of Barrie** as a **single tier municipality** can achieve all provincial direction – **all that is missing is industrial land**.
- We are ready and open for business to meet the demand for employment growth in our region and support major local employers.

Thank you

Barrie