



2024 Ward Boundary Review

Township of Springwater

Final Report

December 11, 2024

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1. Introduction

The Township of Springwater has retained Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., in association with Dr. Robert J. Williams, hereinafter referred to as the Consultant Team, to conduct a comprehensive and independent Ward Boundary Review (W.B.R.) before the 2026 municipal election.

The primary purpose of the study is to prepare Springwater Council to make decisions on whether to maintain the existing electoral structure or to adopt an alternative. This report discusses possible alternative ward boundary designs that have been created based upon Consultant Team expertise, research, analysis, and two rounds of public consultation with the residents of Springwater. This review focused on the re-design of a five-ward structure.

This review is premised on the democratic expectation that municipal representation in Springwater would be effective, equitable, and an accurate reflection of the contemporary distribution of communities and people across the Township.

2. Study Objective

The project has several key objectives:

- Develop a clear understanding of the present electoral system, including its origins and operations as a system of representation.
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the present electoral system based on guiding principles adopted for the study.
- Develop and conduct an appropriate consultation process in accordance with Springwater's public engagement practices to ensure community support for the review and its outcome.
- Prepare population projections for the development and evaluation of alternative electoral structures for at least the next two (2026 and 2030) municipal elections; and
- Deliver a report that will set out recommended alternative ward boundary configurations to ensure effective and equitable electoral arrangements for Springwater, based on the principles identified.



In May 2024, the Consultant Team prepared a series of Discussion Papers that set out:

- The parameters and purpose for the review;
- The basic electoral arrangements in Springwater;
- Council's legislative authority to modify electoral arrangements in the Township; and
- An initial assessment of the Township's current ward boundary system.

The Discussion Papers also provided a set of guiding principles that will inform the study and the work of the Consultant Team, as follows:

- Representation by population;
- Population and electoral trends;
- Means of communication and accessibility;
- Geographical and topographical features as boundaries; and
- Community or diversity of interests.

Taken together, these principles will contribute to achieving the over-arching principle of effective representation.

Each principle is described in detail in Discussion Paper D and can be found on the Township's [project web page](#).^[1]

A [Preliminary Options Report](#), prepared in October 2024, set out to provide the Township with alternative options to consider and provide feedback to the Consultant Team. The Final Report will not explore in detail the topics discussed in the Discussion Papers or the Preliminary Options Report, except in summary form to provide context; it is assumed those interested in the recommendations included herein have access to the documents through the Township's website and links included herein.

The purpose of this Final Report is to provide:

- A summary of the work completed to date;
- A summary of the information received from the public engagement sessions and tools, such as the survey and website; and

[1] www.springwater.ca/wbr



- Two final ward boundary options for Council's consideration.

3. Context

The basic requirement for any electoral system in a representative democracy is to establish measures to determine the people who will constitute the governmental body that makes decisions on behalf of electors. Representation in Canada is organized around geographic areas, units referred to as constituencies in the federal and provincial parliaments, and typically as wards at the municipal level, as is the case in the Township of Springwater.

The Springwater Council is composed of seven members, including a mayor, a deputy mayor (both elected at-large) and five councillors, elected in five wards. The Township of Springwater was incorporated on January 1, 1994, under the *County of Simcoe Act, 1993* as an amalgamated municipality consisting of “portions of the former municipalities of the Village of Elmvale, the Township of Flos, the Township of Medonte, the Township of Vespra, and the Town of Wasaga Beach” (subsection 2 (1) (i)). The Act established a Council composed of “a mayor, who shall be the head of council and a deputy mayor, both of whom shall be elected by general vote,” and, in the case of Springwater, “seven additional members who shall be elected...by wards.”

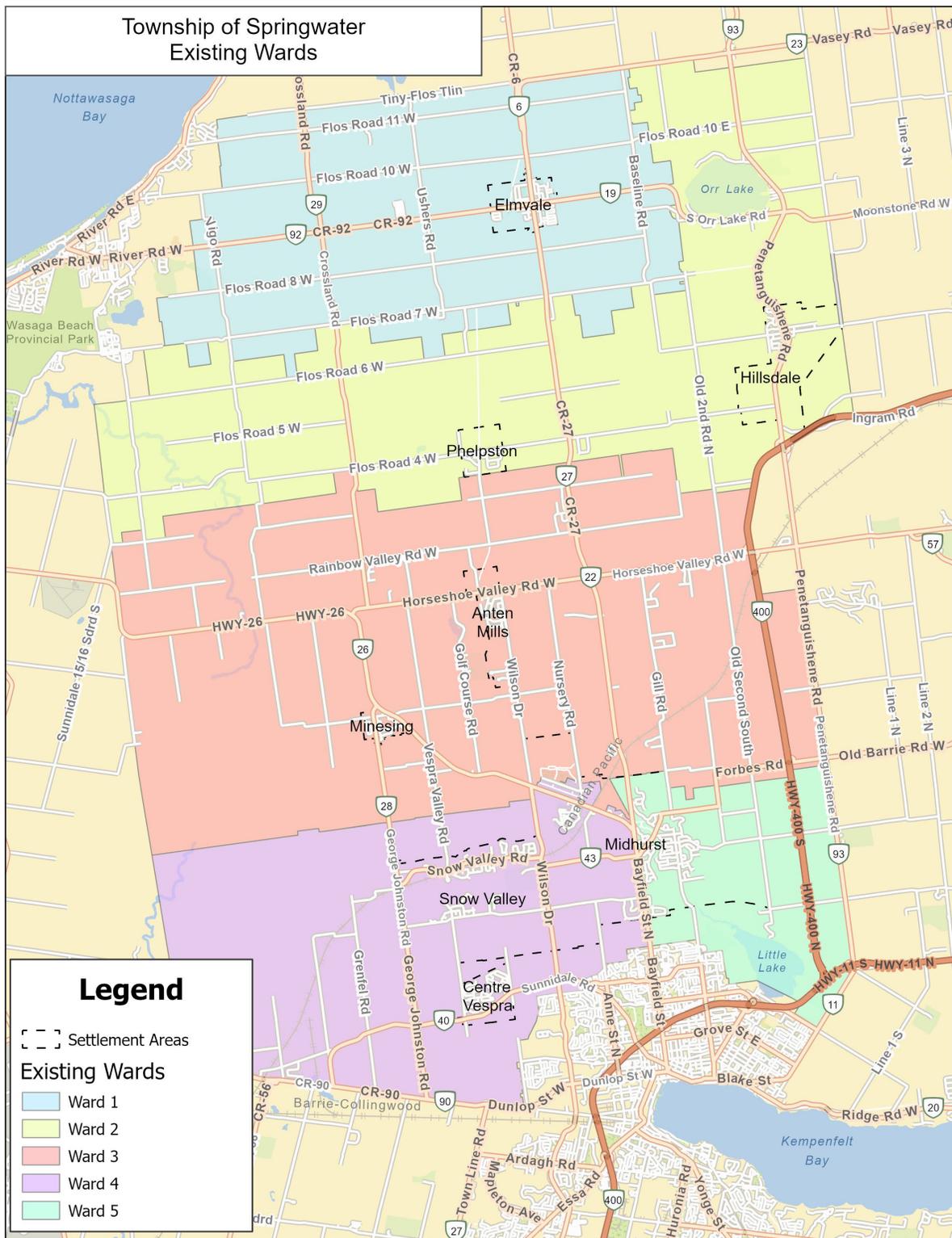
In 1997, an internal review led to a reduction in the number of councillors and wards from seven to five. Although modifications to ward boundaries were considered but not adopted in 2002, 2005, and 2009, a subsequent review in 2012 led to the boundaries currently in place. Township Council consists today as a seven-member system, including a mayor and deputy mayor elected at-large, and five councillors elected in five wards.

Since the present wards were adopted over 10 years ago through a boundary review, it is timely to step back to consider their viability today, since the Township has experienced significant population growth and intensification within Midhurst and the surrounding settlement area. Aligning Council representation with the distribution of population will likely require an adjustment in some or all the wards in Springwater.

The Preliminary Options Report summarized the authority vested in Township Council through the *Municipal Act, 2001* to make changes to the wards and will be discussed in what follows.



Figure 3-1: Township of Springwater Current Ward Structure





4. Existing Population and Forecast Growth in the Township of Springwater

A basic premise of representative democracy in Canada is the notion that the geographic areas used to elect a representative should be reasonably balanced with one another in terms of population. Accordingly, a detailed population estimate for the Township of Springwater, including its constituent wards and communities, was prepared to allow evaluation of the existing ward structure and subsequent alternatives in terms of representation by population in the current year (2024).

The Township of Springwater is forecast to experience significant population growth over the next decade and beyond. For this reason, it is important that this study assess representation by population for both existing and future-year populations. In accordance with the study terms of reference, the analysis considered representation of population over the next two municipal elections and beyond, through to 2034. A population and housing forecast for the Township for the 2024 to 2034 period, consistent with the Township of Springwater Growth Management Strategy (Draft) and the 2023 Development Charges Background Study, ^[2] was determined, and the results of this analysis are discussed below.

It is important to note that the planning landscape is evolving rapidly. This review will reflect the current information, but changes in population and planning policies may lead to different outcomes moving forward. Given the uncertainty in the current landscape, the Consultant Team recommends that the Township continue to monitor population and elector numbers to ensure effective representation by population. If this is not achieved, another review may need to be conducted.

4.1 Existing Population and Structure

Springwater's estimated 2024 population is 24,300 and includes the net Census undercount.^[3] The Township's 2024 total population is presented by the existing ward

^[2] 2023 Development Charges Background Study, Township of Springwater, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

^[3] The net Census undercount is an adjustment to the population to account for the net number of persons who are missed (i.e., over-coverage less under-coverage) during enumeration and is estimated at approximately 3.0%.



structure in Table 4-1. As shown, Ward 4, which comprises the southwest corner of Springwater covering both Snow Valley and Centre Vespra, has the highest population of all the wards at 7,660, while Ward 2 covering the central portion of Springwater (Phelpston and Hillsdale), has the smallest population at 3,890, for a difference of over 3,700 between the smallest and largest wards.

Table 4-1: 2024 Population by Ward

Ward	Area (sq.km)	Total Population ^[1]	Population Variance
Ward 1	95.0	3,990	0.82
Ward 2	132.3	3,890	0.80
Ward 3	183.5	4,750	0.98
Ward 4	97.9	7,660	1.58
Ward 5	34.8	4,010	0.83
Total/Average	543.6	24,300	4,860

^[1] Population includes Census undercount of approximately 3.0%.

Note: Numbers may not add precisely due to rounding.

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2024.

4.2 Forecast Population Growth, 2021 to 2031

The Township of Springwater’s population is consistent with the average population in Simcoe County; in 2021, the average population across the 16 municipalities in Simcoe County was 21,890 compared with 21,700 in Springwater. The municipality, however, is expecting to experience significant growth with the buildout of the Midhurst Settlement Area. Over the 2024 to 2041 period, the Township is anticipated to average approximately 600 new housing units per year. Between 2024 and 2031, approximately 70% of the housing growth in Springwater is expected within the Midhurst area, 10% within Hillsdale, 8% within Elmvale, and the remaining growth expected across the other settlements and rural regions.

In accordance with other municipal growth forecasts and planning direction, Springwater’s population is expected to increase to 39,680 by 2034. The Consultant Team has prepared population growth metrics for the 2024 to 2034 period, guided by County and local growth targets and policy objectives, along with a comprehensive review of opportunities to accommodate future residential growth through plans of



subdivision (registered unbuilt, draft approved, and proposed), site plan applications, and intensification potential.

5. Public Engagement

5.1 Online Engagement

5.1.1 Website

A public-facing web page (www.springwater.ca/wbr) was established to raise awareness about the W.B.R., to disseminate information about the process, and to give the residents of Springwater an opportunity to provide feedback. Through this platform, residents could access the online surveys, view recordings of the public engagement sessions, view proposed ward boundary options, review background material, including the Preliminary Options Report, and provide feedback directly to staff and the Consultant Team. A purpose-built Whiteboard Animation Video was also posted on the web page, which distilled some key information about the W.B.R. into an accessible format.

5.1.2 Surveys

Of those who visited the W.B.R. web page, a significant number also opted to provide feedback through the public survey. The surveys provided the Consultant Team with an opportunity to evaluate public preferences using both qualitative and quantitative analytical techniques. Surveying was done at two different stages of the public consultation process – an initial round to evaluate public priorities and perspectives on the existing ward structure (Phase 1), and a later survey which asked respondents to assess and rank a set of preliminary ward boundary options (Phase 2). Results of these surveys are available in Appendix B (Phase 1) and Appendix C (Phase 2).

5.2 Public Consultation Sessions

Two rounds of public engagement were conducted during this study through both virtual and live events that were designed to:

- Inform residents of Springwater about the reasons for the W.B.R. and the key factors that were considered in the review; and



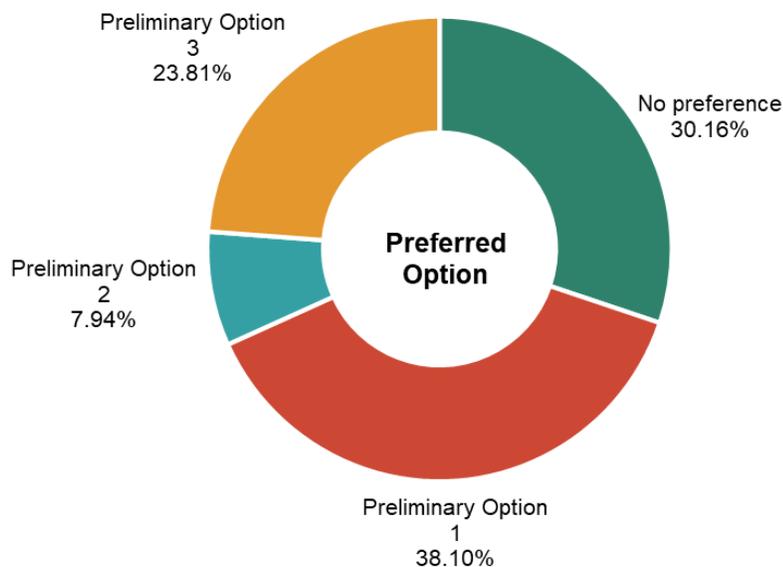
- Engage the residents in a manner that provides valuable input to the evaluation of the existing ward structure and development of alternative ward boundaries.

The first round of engagement was held in the summer of 2024 with the second round, which presented alternative ward configurations, held in the fall of 2024. The Consultant Team’s presentation and other information about the review, including the recording of the Virtual Public Open House, are available on the Township’s website (also see Appendix A): www.springwater.ca/wbr.

In the second round of engagement, three preliminary options were presented for feedback and discussion. Residents from each identified community provided responses. A complete summary of the results can be found in Appendix C.

During the second round, there was strong appetite for Preliminary Option 1 (38%) as presented through the Preliminary Options Report. The feedback and rationale from the public’s perspective on Preliminary Options 1 was that it evenly divided the Township and its represented communities well, however it should be noted that this option does not meet the future Population and Electoral principle as four of the five wards fall outside the acceptable population range of $\pm 25\%$ of the average population of 7,930.

Figure 5-1: Public Engagement Results – Preferred Option





Preliminary Option 3 had received just under 25% of support through the phase 2 survey. This option does largely satisfy all the guiding principles, including future population and electoral trends that was a shortfall in preliminary option 2.

Over 30% of responses indicated "No Preference." While this might suggest a desire to maintain the status quo, the consultant team has highlighted significant shortcomings in the current ward configuration. These issues, detailed in [Discussion Paper E](#) and the [Preliminary Options Report](#), suggest that changes are necessary to better align with the guiding principles.

5.3 Interviews and Direct Community Outreach

In addition to the public engagement, it was crucial for the Consultant Team to benefit from the perspectives of the current participants in Springwater's local government. A series of interviews were conducted with the mayor, deputy mayor, members of Council, and senior Township staff.

The feedback and comments received through the consultation process are reflected in the analysis and have helped inform the findings and recommendations. As has been mentioned previously in this report, public input from consultation provides valuable insight into the review, but it is not relied on exclusively. This is in part because only a subset of the population participated in the W.B.R., which may not be representative of Springwater's population as a whole. The Consultant Team interpreted the public input using its professional expertise and experience in W.B.R.s, along with knowledge of best practices, to develop the recommended options.

6. Evaluation of the Existing Ward Structure

The survey, conducted as part of the initial phase of public consultation, asked respondents to assess the current wards in terms of their strengths and weaknesses. The survey in the second phase of the study sought the assessment of residents on the ward systems presented as preliminary alternative options. These responses can be used to add depth to the evaluation of the existing ward structure included in the Discussion Paper and the Preliminary Options Report that addressed the wards in terms of the guiding principles.



These principles are discussed at length in Chapter 8 of the Preliminary Options Report in relation to the present wards, so they will not be addressed again in this Final Report. The Consultant Team has given thorough consideration to the importance of each principle and a careful evaluation of which of the principles is most important for determining an appropriate system of representation for the 2026 municipal election and beyond in Springwater.

The principles contribute to a system that provides for equitable on-going access between elected officials and residents, but they may occasionally conflict with one another. Accordingly, it is expected that the overriding principle of effective representation will be used to arbitrate conflicts between principles. Any deviation from the specific principles must be justified by other principles in a manner that is more supportive of effective representation.

The priority attached to certain principles makes some designs more desirable in the eyes of different observers. Ultimately, the ward design adopted by Springwater Council should be the one that best fulfills as many of the guiding principles as possible.

The evaluation of the current ward system in Springwater suggests that there are identifiable shortcomings when evaluated against the guiding principles for this review. Council could still choose to retain the status quo by turning down all recommended options for an alternative ward configuration. That decision, however, could result in a petition submitted under section 223 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*. The analysis presented herein suggests that it could be difficult for the Township to defend the existing ward system before the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT), especially in addressing future growth.

The ward system in Springwater must confront two main challenges: providing for population parity between wards at the present time and accommodating future population trends.

The objective of population parity (every councillor generally representing an equal number of constituents within their respective ward) is the primary goal of an electoral redistribution with some degree of variation acceptable considering population densities and demographic factors across the Township. The indicator of success in a ward design is the extent to which all the individual wards approach an “optimal” size.



Optimal size can be understood as a mid-point on a scale where the term “optimal” (O) describes a ward with a population within 5% on either side of the calculated optimal size. The classification “below/above optimal” (O+ or O-) is applied to a ward with a population between 6% and 25% on either side of the optimal size and is considered an acceptable variation. A ward that is labelled “outside the range” (OR+ or OR-) indicates that its population is greater than 25% above or below the optimal ward size. The adoption of a 25% maximum variation is based on federal redistribution legislation and is widely applied in municipalities like Springwater that include both urban and rural areas.

Table 6-1: Optimal Range for a Five-Ward System

Symbol	Description	Variance	2024 Population Range	2034 Population Range
OR+	Outside Range - High	25% and above	Greater than 6,075	Greater than 9,920
O+	Above Optimal but Acceptable	5% to 25%	5,103-6,075	8,333-9,920
O	Optimal Population Range	+/- 5%	4,860	7,936
O-	Below Optimal but Acceptable	-5% to -25%	3,645-4,617	5,952-7,539
OR-	Outside Range - Low	-25% and below	Less than 3,645	Less than 5,952

Table 6-2: Present Springwater Ward Configuration Evaluation Summary

Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?	Comment
Representation by Population	No	Only one ward is at the optimal size and one ward exceeds the $\pm 25\%$ range of variation.
Population and Electoral Trends	No	Population growth will not overcome the existing population imbalance. All wards fall outside the $\pm 25\%$ range of variation over the long term.
Means of Communication and Accessibility	Largely Successful	Four wards are generally plausible groupings of communities; one is not.



Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?	Comment
Geographical and Topographical Features	No	Most boundaries are irregular and/or invisible lines.
Community or Diversity of Interests	Largely Successful	One ward includes questionable groupings of communities.
Effective Representation	No	Population imbalances and irregular boundaries hinder the achievement of effective representation.

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as “**Yes**” (fully satisfied), “**Largely Successful**,” “**Partially Successful**,” or “**No**” (not satisfied).

Data presented in both previous reports confirm that four of the five current wards vary by more than 5% from the optimal point in 2024 and all five fall outside the optimal range of variation by 2034, but with significant variances projected, since the Ward 4 population is 12,820 and the Ward 5 population is 11,480, while the remaining three wards are projected to include under 6,000 people. Analysis of the current and future population trends, along with feedback received during the public consultation and other features of Springwater in 2024, leads to a recommendation that the present wards fall short of achieving effective representation across the Township.

Table 6-3: Existing Wards' 2024 and 2034 Population Distribution

Ward Number	2024 Population	Variance	Optimal Range	2034 Population	Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	3,990	0.82	O-	5,310	0.67	OR-
Ward 2	3,890	0.80	O-	5,580	0.70	OR-
Ward 3	4,750	0.98	O	4,480	0.56	OR-
Ward 4	7,660	1.58	OR+	12,820	1.62	OR+
Ward 5	4,010	0.83	O-	11,480	1.45	OR+
Total	24,300	-	-	39,680	-	-
Average	4,860	-	-	7,934	-	-

Note: Numbers have been rounded.

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2021.



7. Final Ward Boundary Options

In the Preliminary Options Report, three alternatives were presented to the public for further feedback. Two of those preliminary options are being presented as the final recommended options for Council consideration.

Since this report is the final contribution to a W.B.R., it is important to set out some of the implications of each of these alternatives as background to Council's deliberations. A summary of each of the final options is presented below, with a full and more detailed evaluation of all the preliminary options available in the Preliminary Options Report.

7.1 Final Option 1

Final Option 1 (Preliminary Option 3) can be considered a “population parity” option since it places a priority on providing representation for both the existing and future populations over three election cycles. When compared to the existing system, only minor changes have been proposed to the northern two wards (Ward 1 and Ward 2) while larger changes to the remaining three wards are proposed, to maximize future population distributions around the Midhurst and surrounding areas. One consequence of emphasizing both current and future population growth is the proposed division of the Midhurst community into two wards, one east of Wilson Drive and the other west of Wilson Drive (with the area south of Snow Valley Rd between Wilson Dr and Bayfield St captured within the western Midhurst ward).

This Final Option 1 successfully meets most of the guiding principles being considered in this W.B.R and has received the largely successful evaluation of effective representation as presented in Figure 7-2 and Table 7-1.



Figure 7-1: Final Option 1

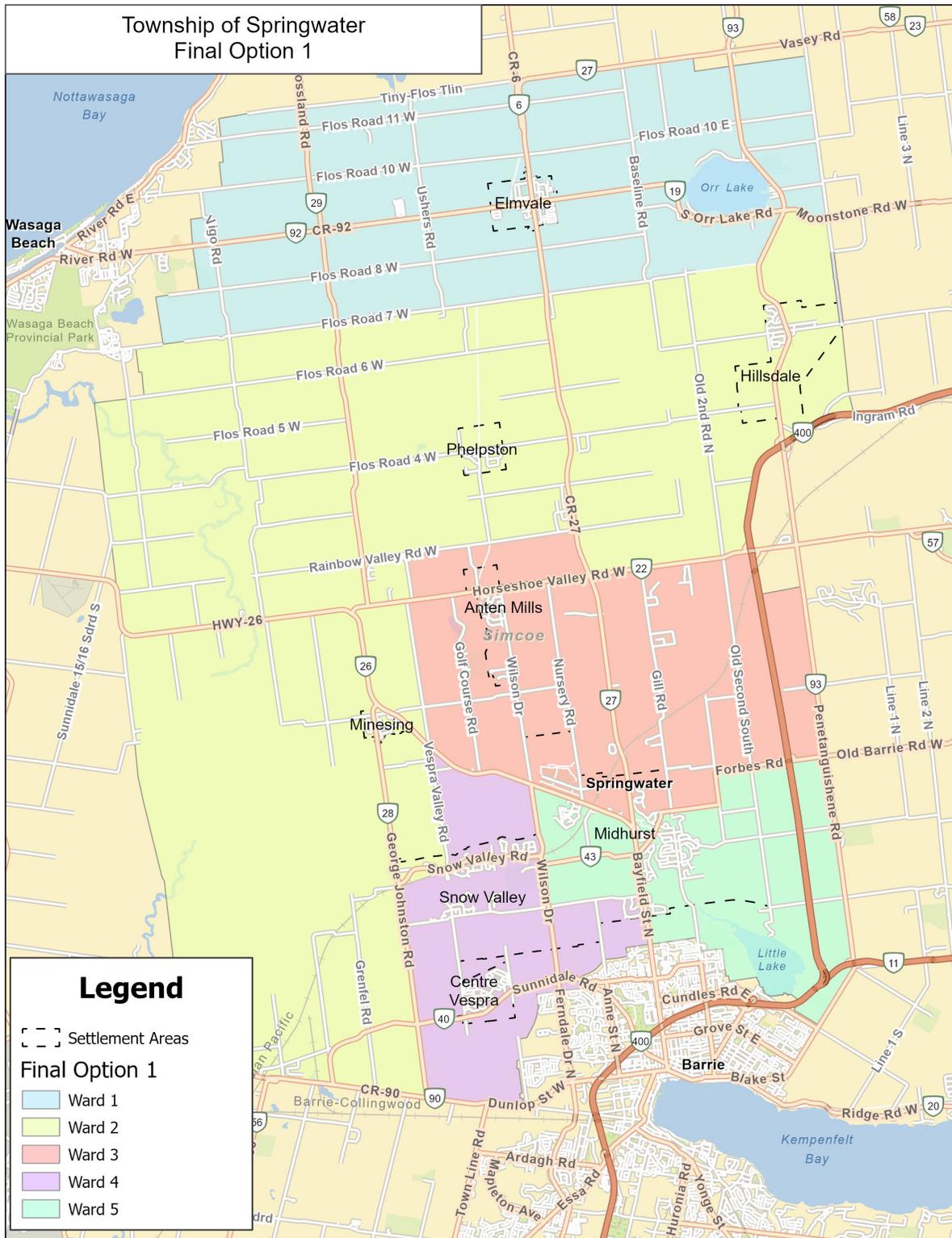




Figure 7-2: Final Option 1 – Evaluation Summary

Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle? ^[1]	Comment
Representation by Population	Largely Successful	Four wards fall within 15% of the optimal size, with two of the four falling within the optimal range. Ward 3 falls outside the acceptable population range but is expected to contain future growth.
Population and Electoral Trends	Largely Successful	Population growth will result in one of the five wards outside the acceptable range by 2034, but the growth located in northern Midhurst will bring Ward 3 into parity.
Means of Communication and Accessibility	Largely Successful	Wards are generally plausible groupings of communities.
Geographical and Topographical features	Yes	Boundaries are identifiable and follow visible lines.
Community or Diversity of Interests	Yes	Wards contain coherent communities of interest.

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as “**Yes**” (fully satisfied), “**Largely Successful**,” “**Partially Successful**,” or “**No**” (not satisfied).



Table 7-1: Final Option 1 – Population Distribution, 2024 to 2034

Ward Number	2024 Population	Variance	Optimal Range	2034 Population	Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	4,970	1.02	O	6,180	0.78	O-
Ward 2	5,500	1.13	O+	7,010	0.88	O-
Ward 3	3,220	0.66	OR-	8,600	1.08	O+
Ward 4	5,580	1.15	O+	6,940	0.87	O-
Ward 5	5,040	1.04	O	10,940	1.38	OR+
Total	24,300	-	-	39,680	-	-
Average	4,860	-	-	7,936	-	-

Note: Numbers have been rounded.

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2024.

7.2 Final Option 2

Final Option 2 (Preliminary Option 1) can be considered a “minimal disruption” option since it preserves (and in some cases improves) the groupings of the main settlement areas found in the existing wards, while moving to more identifiable lines between wards.

Significant changes between the existing configuration and the proposed alternative are visible around the proposed Wards 4 and 5 as the Consultant team strived to achieve better parity between the Midhurst ward and other wards. This proposed configuration utilizes a dividing line along Wilson Dr between the proposed Wards 4 and 5, optimizing current population parity between the two southern wards.

Final Option 2 looks to maintain similarities to the existing configuration while seeking and achieving current population parity as presented in Table 9-1. As growth continues to develop across the southern region of the Township, four of the five wards are expected to fall outside of the $\pm 25\%$ acceptable range by 2034. This option addresses some of the more significant issues with the existing system but recognizes some of the uncertainty surrounding future residential and population growth. This option could mean the Township would have to review boundaries again after two elections, depending on growth. However, the practice of reviewing boundaries after every two or three elections, should be a recommended practice. With the growth expected to be largely concentrated in Ward 5 in this option, future ward population imbalances could be fixed in the future with tweaks to this proposed system or changes to composition.



Final Option 2 is presented in Figure 7-3 and an evaluation of this configurations against the guiding principles can be found in Figure 7-4 and Table 7-2.



Figure 7-3: Final Option 2

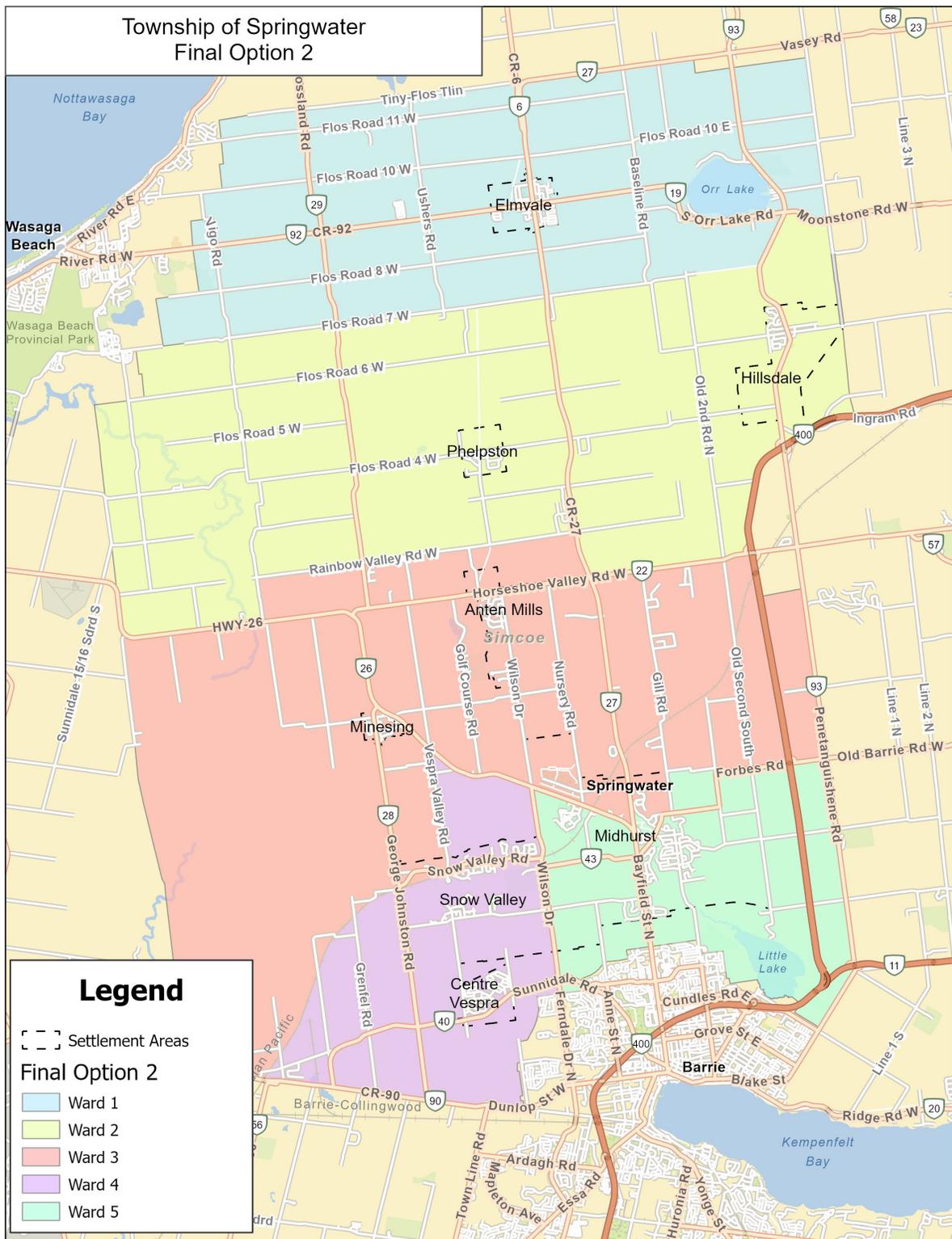




Table 7-2: Final Option 2 – Population by Ward

Ward Number	2024 Population	Variance	Optimal Range	2034 Population	Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	4,970	1.02	O	6,180	0.78	O-
Ward 2	3,440	0.71	OR-	5,190	0.65	OR-
Ward 3	4,950	1.02	O	4,650	0.59	OR-
Ward 4	5,430	1.12	O+	5,690	0.72	OR-
Ward 5	5,510	1.13	O+	17,970	2.26	OR+
Total	24,300	-	-	39,680	-	-
Average	4,860	-	-	7,934	-	-

Note: Numbers have been rounded.

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2024.

Figure 7-4: Final Option 2 – Evaluation Summary

Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle? ^[1]	Comment
Representation by Population	Largely Successful	Two of the five wards are within the optimal range ($\pm 5\%$) with one ward (Ward 2) falling just outside the acceptable range.
Population and Electoral Trends	No	Population growth will result in four of the five wards significantly outside the acceptable range and does not meet the future population principle.
Means of Communication and Accessibility	Largely Successful	Wards are generally plausible groupings of communities.
Geographical and Topographical features	Yes	Boundaries are identifiable and follow visible lines.
Community or Diversity of Interests	Yes	Wards contain coherent communities of interest.

^[1] The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as “**Yes**” (fully satisfied), “**Largely Successful**,” “**Partially Successful**,” or “**No**” (not satisfied).



8. Next Steps and Council Decisions

This report will be presented at the Council meeting scheduled for December 11, 2024.

In the Preliminary Options Report, the Consultant team proposed three preliminary options. Preliminary Options 1 and 3 received the most interest and support during the second round of public engagement. The consultant team, through their expertise and evaluation against the guiding principles and the feedback received, agree and those options have been included as the final two options for Council consideration.

The Consultant Team believes that the two Final Options provide the residents of Springwater with an opportunity to establish a new ward system that better aligns with recent and future population growth (Final Option 1) while adhering as closely as possible to the guiding principles adopted for this review or to address the recent growth while preserving the historical boundaries as presented as Final Option 2. Acknowledging, Final Option 2 may have a shelf life.

Within this report, the Consultant Team has highlighted some deficiencies in the current ward boundary system in relation to the guiding principles. These deficiencies have led the Consultant Team to conclude that there are alternative ward boundary systems that can better serve the residents of Springwater well and Council should consider changes. The public engagement efforts throughout this review have been largely consistent with this view.

Council can respond to this report in two ways:

- It can adopt one of the two Final Options with or without minor modifications^[4] and later ratify a by-law to implement changes to the boundaries of the wards. Such a by-law is open to appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT), but the Consultant Team is confident that either of the two options would withstand such an appeal.
- It can take no action at all; that is, Council may view the current ward system as adequate and, by default, endorse it by not selecting an alternative option. If it declines to act, Council must clearly understand that such a decision essentially

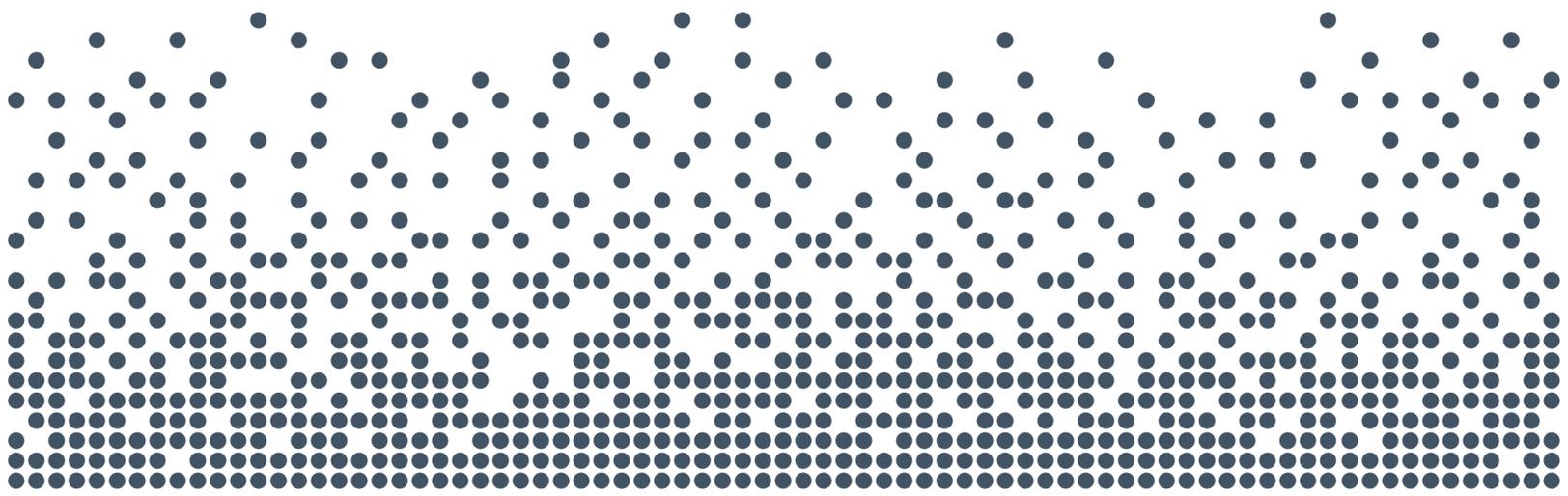
^[4] It would also be possible for Council to adopt one of the Preliminary Options but, in our professional assessment, the Final Options presented better meet the criteria applied in this review.



indicates to the Township's residents that it believes retaining the existing ward system still serves Springwater well. The Consultant Team has reached a different conclusion.

In that context, it is also important to note that taking no action is a form of decision that can still be appealed, albeit indirectly. Section 223 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* indicates that one per cent of the electors or 500 of the electors in the municipality, whichever is less, may "present a petition to the council asking the council to pass a by-law dividing or redividing the municipality into wards or dissolving the existing wards." If Council does not pass a by-law in accordance with such a petition within 90 days after receiving the petition, any of the electors who signed the petition may apply to the Ontario Land Tribunal to have the municipality redivided into wards.

If Council's decision is to endorse one of the Final Options contained in this report, a by-law to implement a preferred option is expected to occur as soon as possible. The by-law would describe the boundaries associated with the approved wards and assign numbers (or names) to them that may be different than those included in Figure 7-1 and Figure 7-3.



Appendices



Appendix A

Public Engagement Overview



Figure A-1: List of Public Engagement Tools

Tool	Description
Springwater W.B.R. Web Page	A dedicated engagement website was developed for the review at springwater.ca/wbr . The web page included an informative whiteboard video, links to public engagement sessions and surveys, and up-to-date messaging to inform the public of the status of the W.B.R.
Public Open Houses	Five open houses were held: <u>Phase 1</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• June 17, 2024 (x2)• June 20, 2024 (Virtual) <u>Phase 2</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• October 8, 2024 (x2)
Public Engagement Surveys	Two phases of surveys were posted on the W.B.R. web page: the first intended to discern which guiding principles were prioritized by the community, and the second to discern which preliminary option was preferred. See Appendices C and D for a summary of the results.
Interviews with Members of Government	The mayor and each member of Council were invited to participate in a one-hour discussion with the consultant.



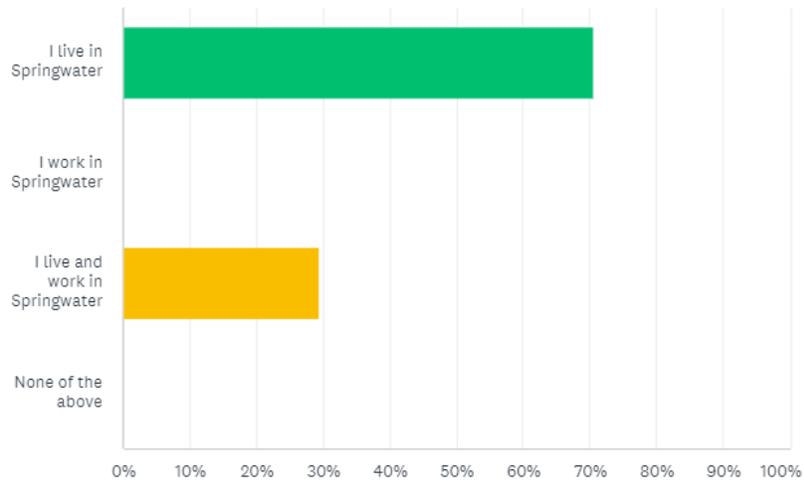
Appendix B

Survey Results (Phase 1)



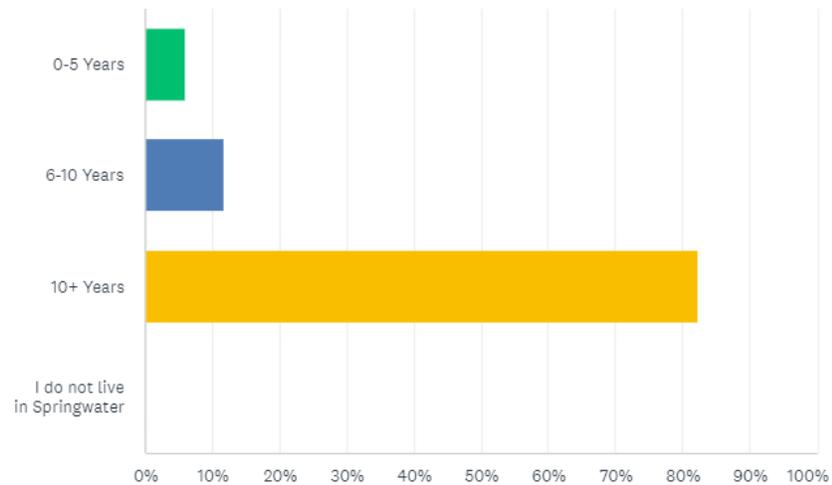
What best describes you?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 0



How long have you lived in Springwater?

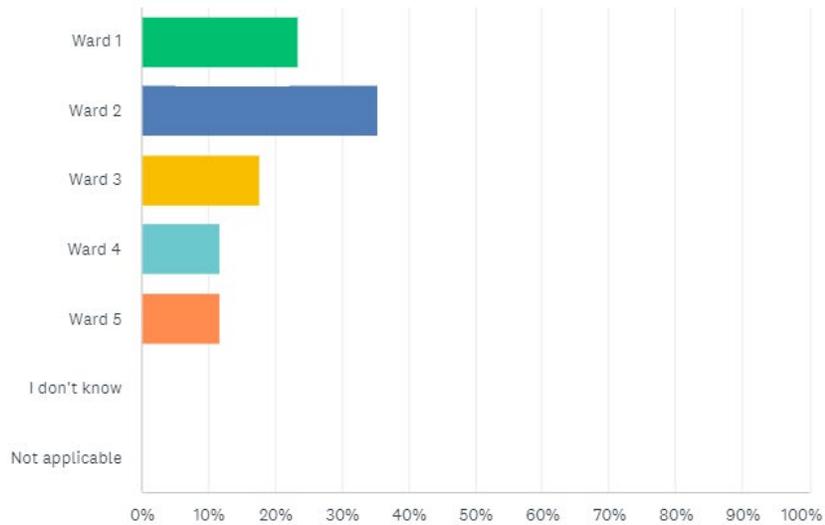
Answered: 17 Skipped: 0





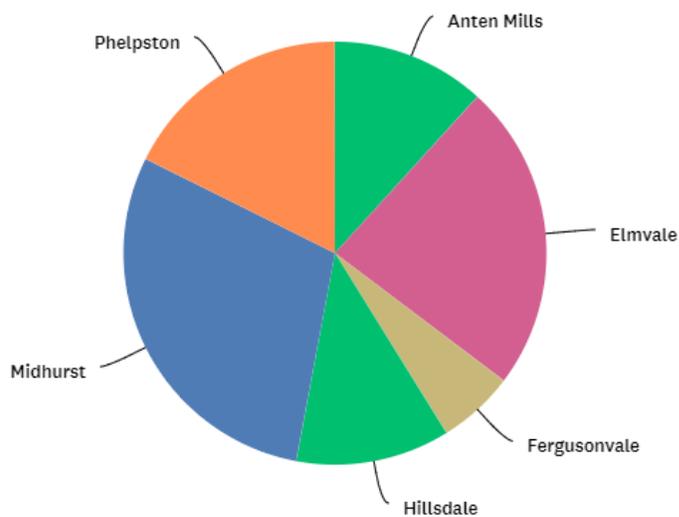
Which ward do you live in?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 0



Which community in Springwater do you live in?

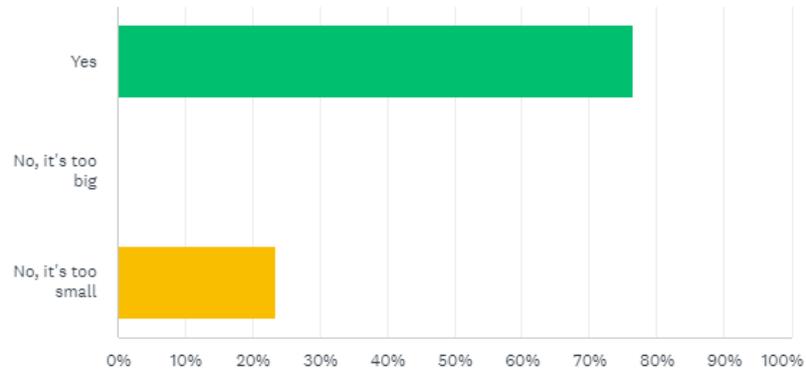
Answered: 17 Skipped: 0





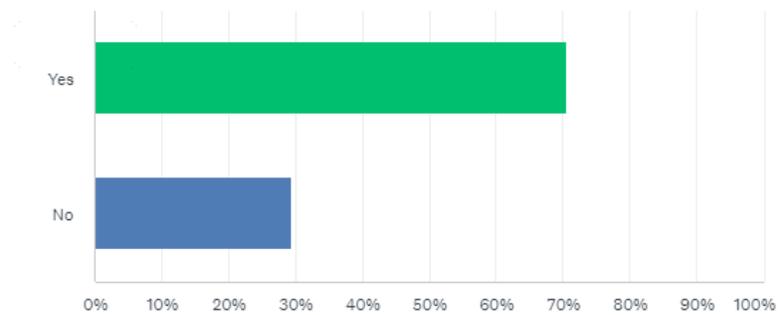
Is the Township's Council the right size?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 0



Does the current ward system represent you fairly?

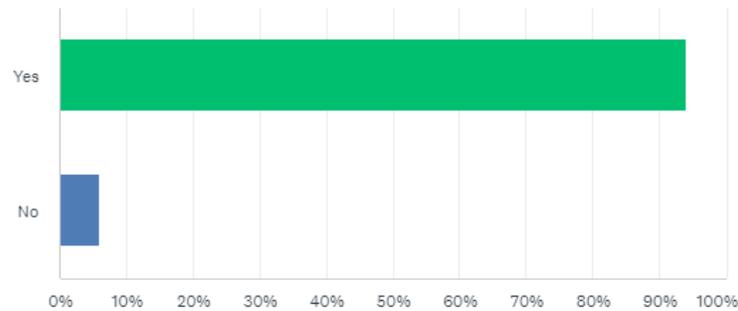
Answered: 17 Skipped: 0





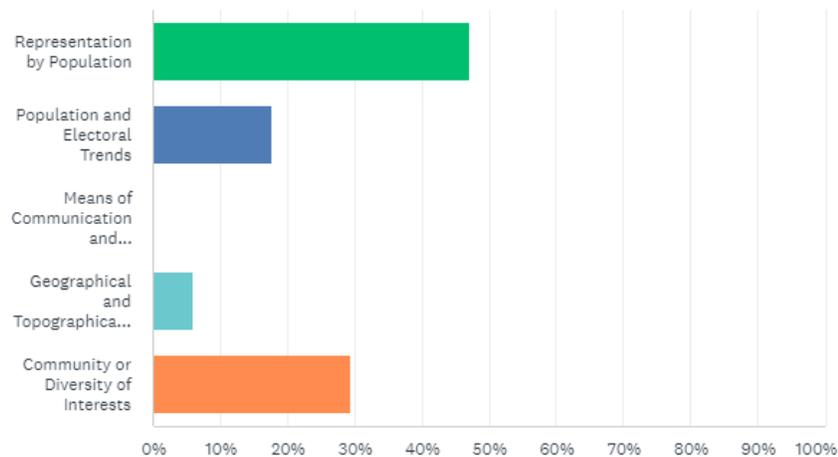
Did you know that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor also represent Springwater on Simcoe County Council?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 0



Please indicate the ONE guiding principle that should be given the greatest priority to ensure effective voter representation as we assess the current ward makeup in Springwater:

Answered: 17 Skipped: 0





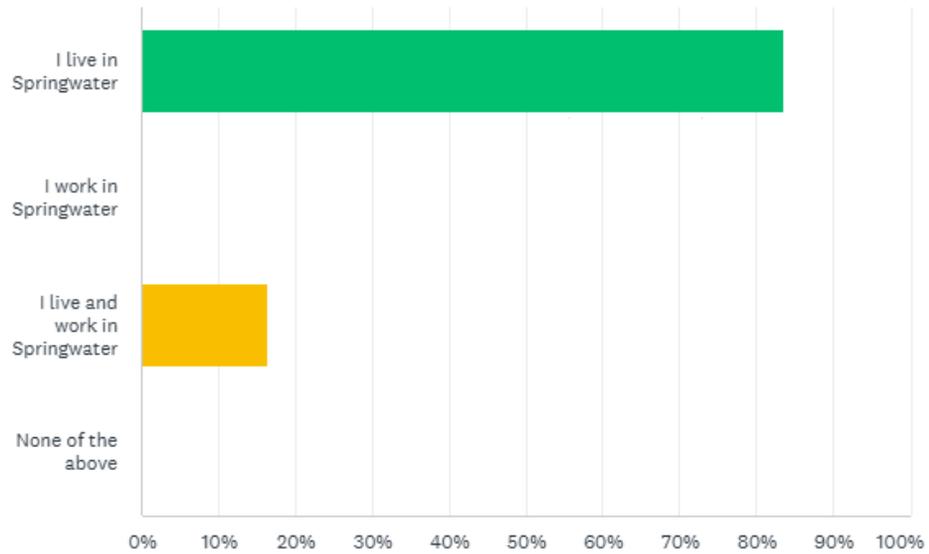
Appendix C

Survey Results (Phase 2)



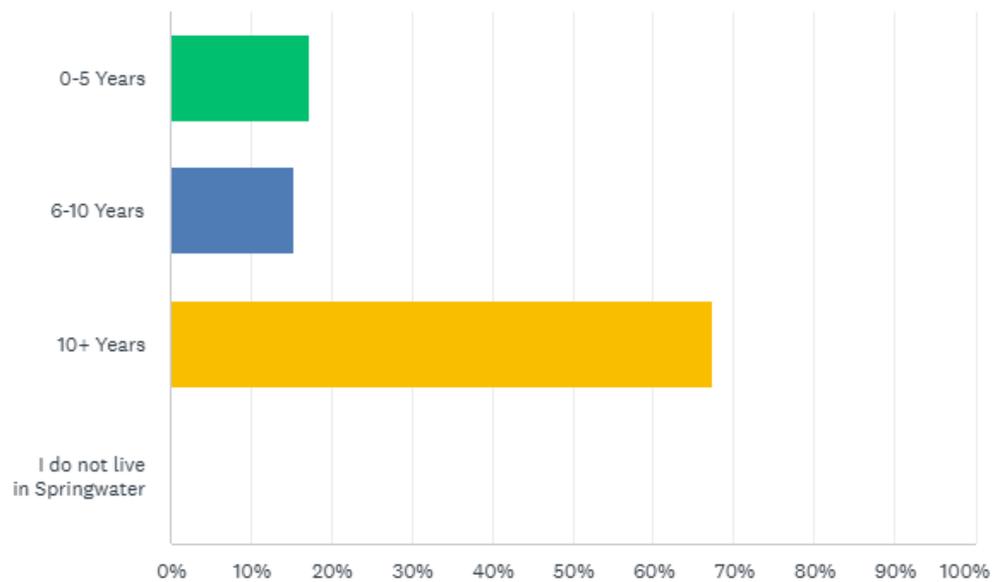
What best describes you?

Answered: 98 Skipped: 1



How long have you lived in Springwater?

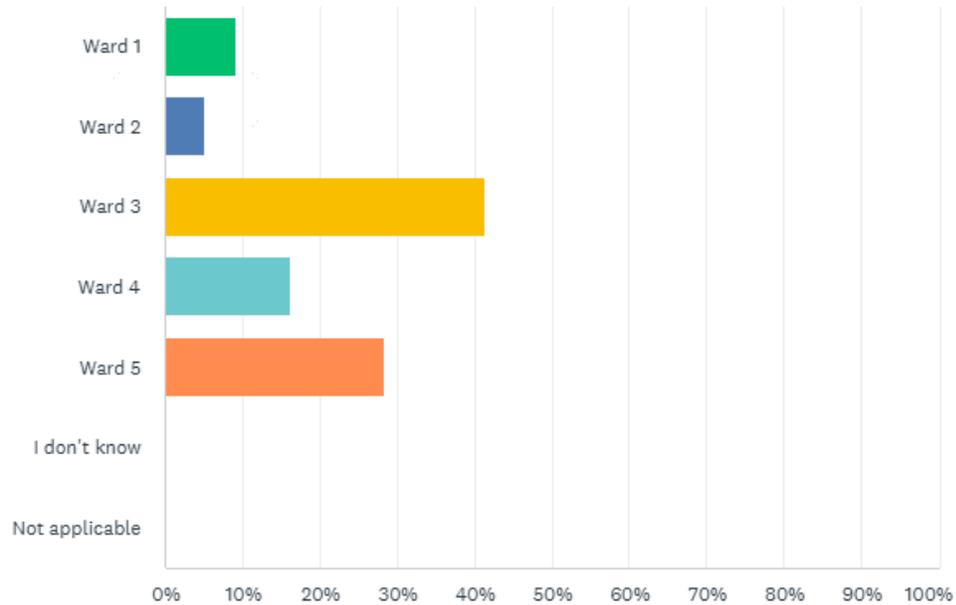
Answered: 98 Skipped: 1





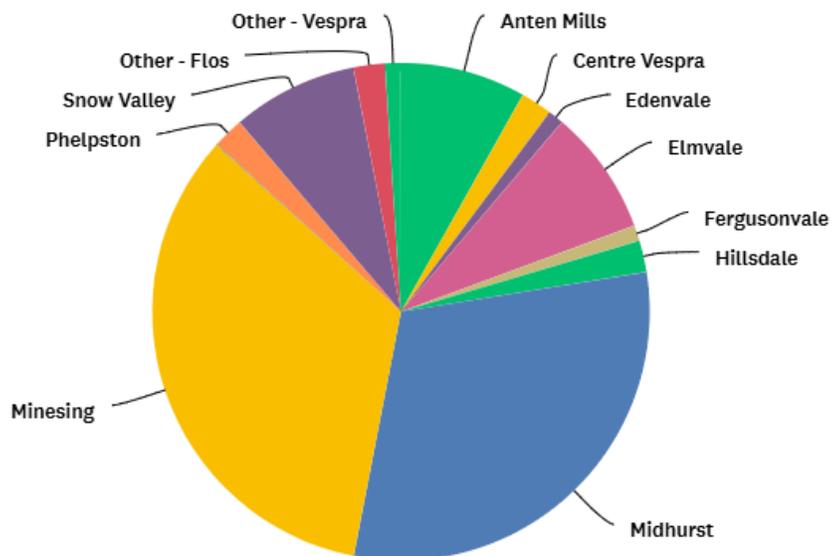
Which ward do you live in?

Answered: 99 Skipped: 0



Which community in Springwater do you live in?

Answered: 98 Skipped: 1





Which of the three preliminary options do you prefer?

Answered: 63 Skipped: 36

