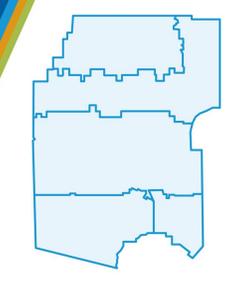




 **Watson
& Associates**
ECONOMISTS LTD.

 Township of
Springwater

**Ward Boundary
Review 2024**



Township of Springwater Ward Boundary Review 6-Ward Configurations

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Context



Incorporation of the Township of Springwater



Ward Boundary Review
Review conducted by Township administration and resulted in adjustments to Wards 1, 2, 3 and 5



Simcoe County Council Composition Review
No change to lower-tier representation on County Council



2024 Ward Boundary Review



6-Ward Alternatives

Mayor & Deputy Mayor
(elected at-large and represent the Township on County Council)

5 Local Councillors
(1 per ward)

Guiding Principles to Design Wards



A **ward-based** electoral system should address these core principles/guidelines:

REPRESENTATION BY POPULATION



Ensure that residents are equitably represented, have comparable access to their elected representative, and the wards have reasonably equal population totals.

POPULATION AND ELECTORAL TRENDS



Take account of anticipated population growth in Springwater, specifically over a two-election cycle (2026, 2030) and beyond.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION AND ACCESSIBILITY



Wards should group existing neighbourhoods to reflect current transportation and communication patterns.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES AS BOUNDARIES



Ward boundaries will be drawn impartially and with consideration for natural and man-made features within the Township of Springwater that may serve as effective internal boundaries.

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST



Consider residential and commercial clusters but also geographic, social, historical, economic, and/or cultural factors, including the identifiable rural and agricultural component of the Township of Springwater.

EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION



The five articulated principles contribute to achieving the over-arching principle of effective representation.

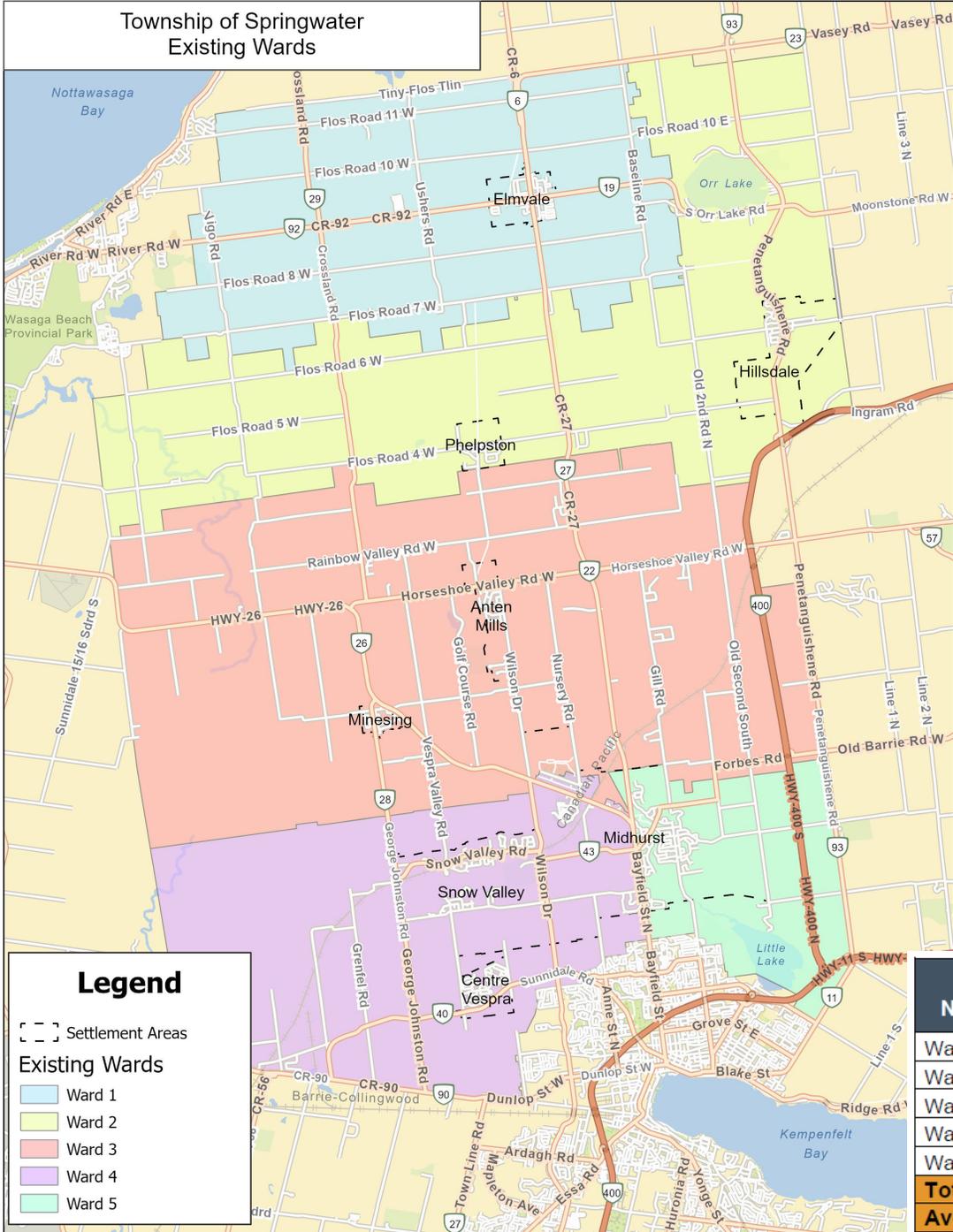
What Did The Review Discover?



The present boundaries fall short of meeting the over-arching principle of effective representation and the population imbalance across wards will become even greater as forecast population growth is realized.

Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle? ^[1]	Comment
Representation by Population	No	Only one ward is at the optimal point and one ward exceeds the ±25% range of variation.
Population and Electoral Trends	No	Population growth will not overcome the existing population imbalance. All wards fall outside the ±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
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.

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	-	-



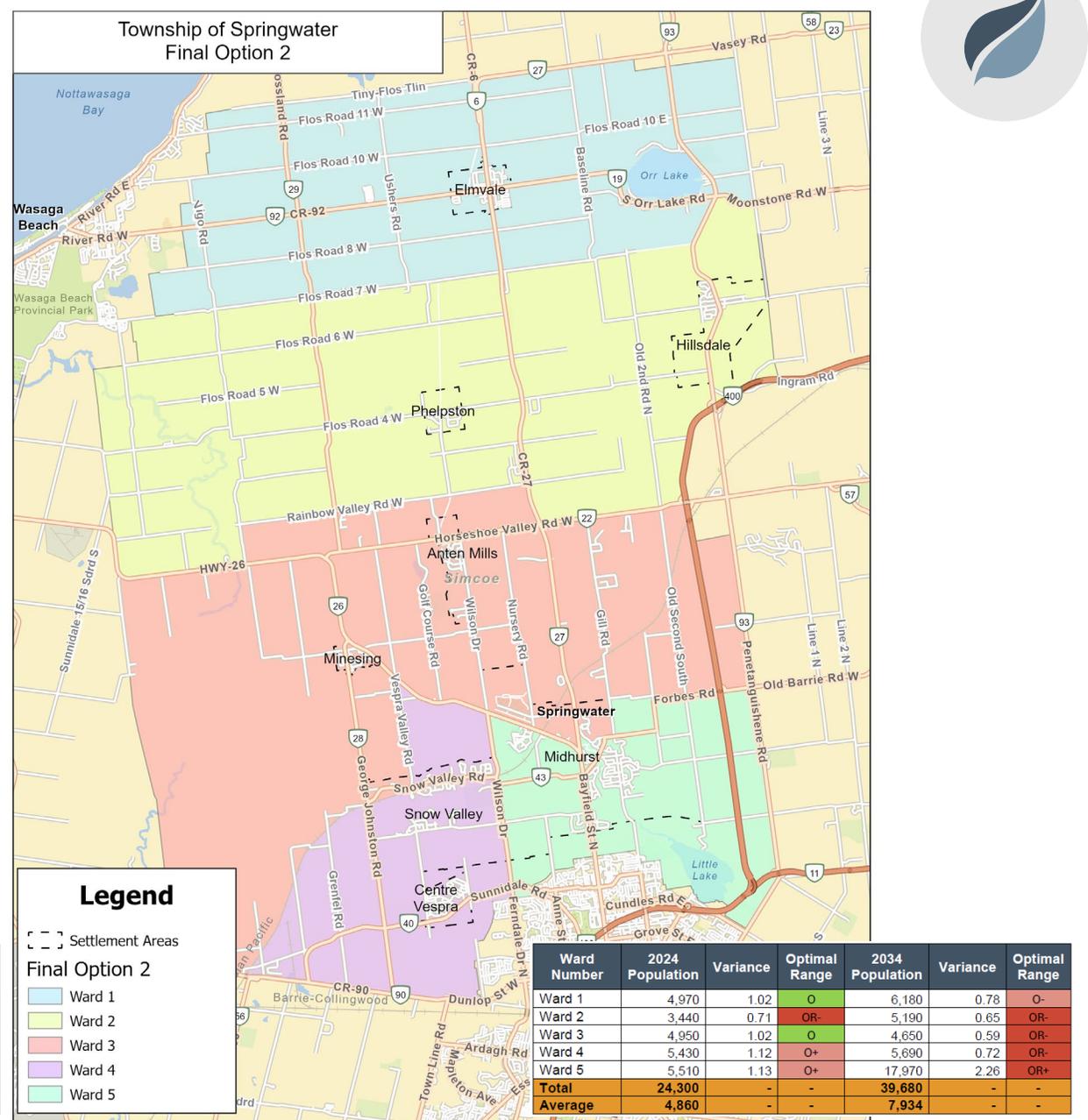
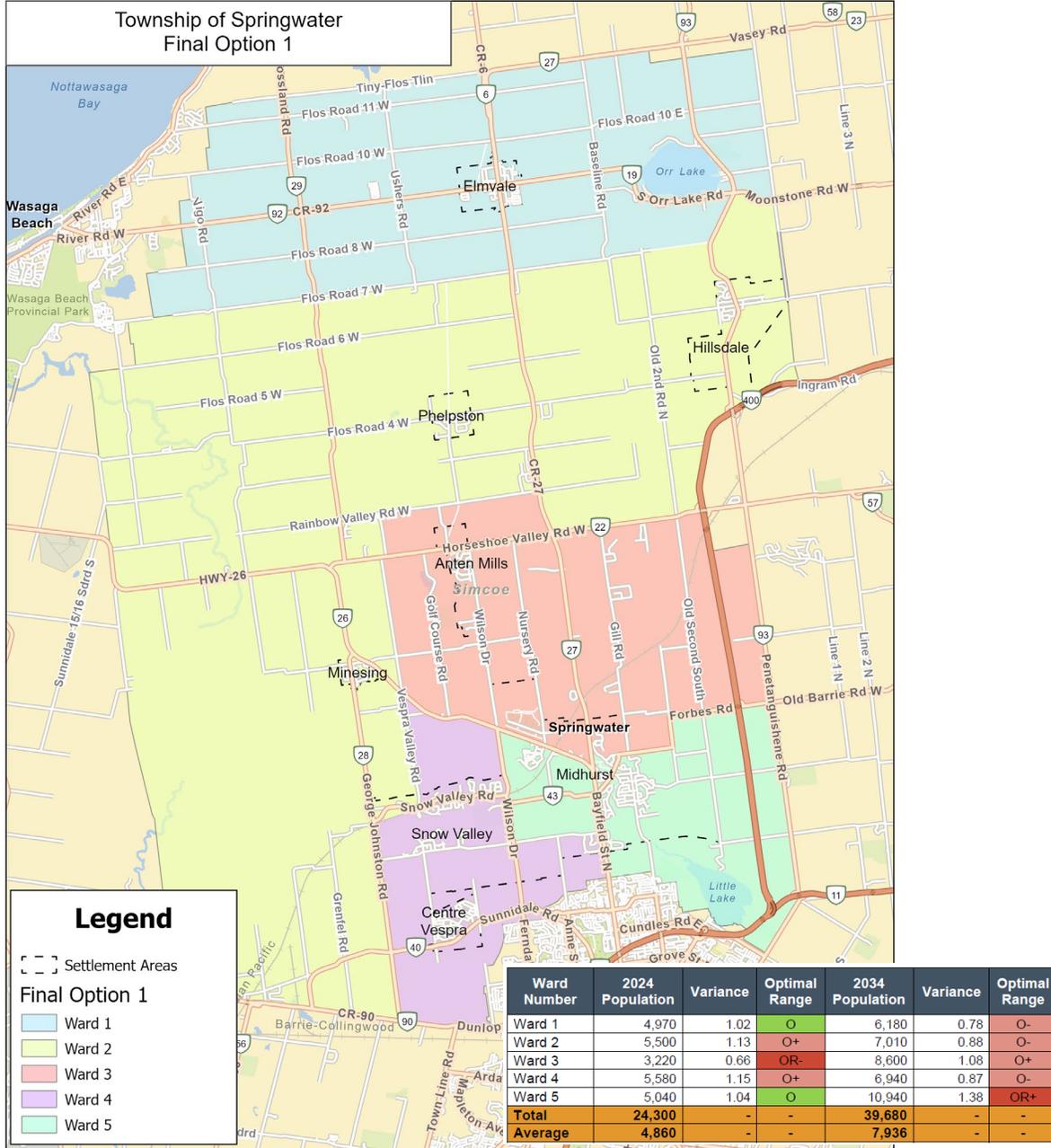
Legend

[- -] Settlement Areas

Existing Wards

- Ward 1
- Ward 2
- Ward 3
- Ward 4
- Ward 5

Final 5-Ward Recommendations



Final Recommendations Summary



Final Option 1

- Option 1 addresses most of the identified challenges with the existing system.
- It provides good population parity for both the next election and future elections while balancing all the guiding principles. Midhurst ward 5 expected to fall above parity.
- When compared to the existing system, changes have been proposed to all wards, less so in the northern two wards with larger changes to the remaining three wards, to maximize future population distributions around the Midhurst and surrounding areas.

Final Option 2

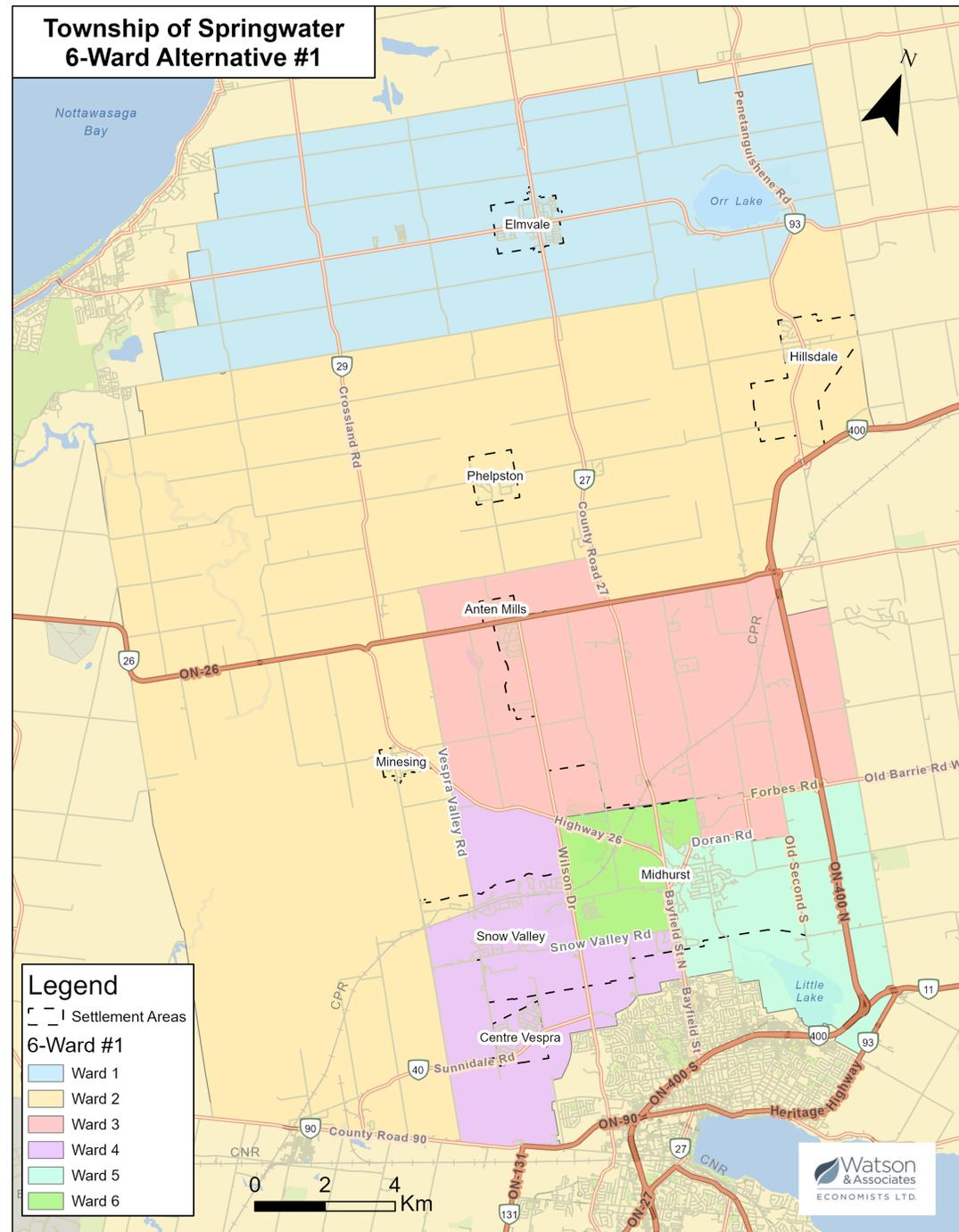
- Option 2 addresses the most significant challenges to the existing system, while maintaining familiarity.
- While this option proposes some changes to the existing system, there are still large parts of the ward system similar to the existing system.
- It provides very good population parity for the next election, but population would likely begin to fall out of parity for the following elections.

6-Ward Alternatives

- Identify plausible 6-ward configurations that ensure balanced future population with the development of the Midhurst Secondary Plan.
- Determine a population trigger to implement an additional sixth ward if viable.

**Township of Springwater
6-Ward Alternative #1**

6-Ward Alternative #1

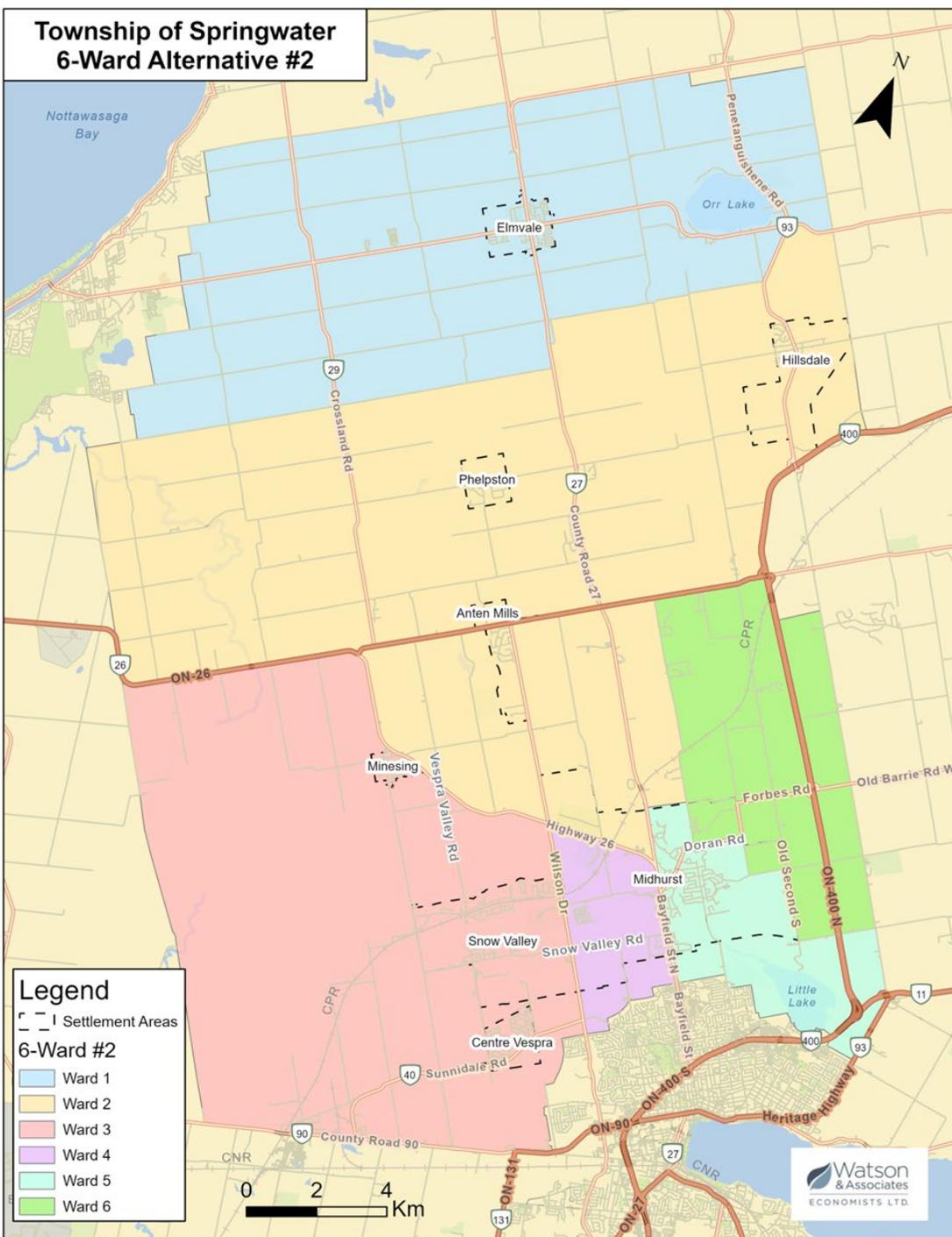


Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle? ^[1]	Comment
Representation by Population	N/A	The current population to be represented by a 5-ward configuration.
Population and Electoral Trends	Yes	Population growth will result in one of the six wards within the optimal population range, while all additional wards are within the acceptable range by 2034.
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.

Ward	2034		
	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	6,180	0.93	O-
Ward 2	7,010	1.06	O+
Ward 3	8,120	1.23	O+
Ward 4	6,940	1.05	O
Ward 5	5,660	0.86	O-
Ward 6	5,760	0.87	O-
Total/Average	39,670	6,612	

Township of Springwater
6-Ward Alternative #2

6-Ward Alternative #2



Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle? ^[1]	Comment
Representation by Population	N/A	The current population to be represented by a 5-ward configuration.
Population and Electoral Trends	Yes	Population growth will result in three of the six wards within the optimal population range, while all additional wards are within 10% of the optimal population target by 2034.
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.

Ward	2034		
	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	6,350	0.96	O
Ward 2	7,010	1.06	O+
Ward 3	7,160	1.08	O+
Ward 4	6,740	1.02	O
Ward 5	5,940	0.90	O-
Ward 6	6,470	0.98	O
Total/Average	39,670	6,612	

5-Ward to 6-Ward Transition



5-Ward configuration

Population Trigger Reached (~32K)

6-Ward Configuration Implemented

- Composition**
1. Keep Deputy Mayor elected at-large, council increases to 8 members
 2. Deputy Mayor appointed from within council, council remains at 7 members.

