



# Municipality of Port Hope

## Staff Report

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### Report Title: OPG/Wesleyville Purchase Next Steps

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**Report to:** Planning & Development Committee

**Date of meeting:** March 1, 2022

**Report Author:**

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**Department responsible:**

Office of the CAO

**Report Number:** PD-06-22

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#### Recommendation:

Receive for information.

#### Highlights:

- The Municipality of Port Hope (MPH) has confirmed purchase of Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Wesleyville property
- Closing date March 31, 2022
- Efforts underway to transition to property ownership role
- Community consultation parameters expected to be developed for Council consideration in mid 2022.

#### Background:

The Municipality of Port Hope purchased 1334 acres of property from OPG. The purchase will close on March 31, 2022, at which time the Municipality will become the property owner and landlord.

#### Discussion:

##### Public Consultation on Future Use

During the acquisition process a commitment was made to develop an extensive and inclusive community consultation process expected to start in 2023 and potentially continue into 2024. Planning for the process has started and a report to Committee is expected to be ready in mid 2022 which will outline the proposed community consultation broad parameters. The purpose of the report will be to generate discussion to inform the future approach which could include community meetings with invited speakers, workshops, site tours of the property and other notable developments etc,

As expected and identified in the risk section of the acquisition presentation, a number of citizens are already requesting immediate action on a number of topics including planning, property management and environmental matters

To date the development sector has understood the purposeful timing of the planning process and have not initiated engagement to any degree. The consistent messaging that development is not being considered until after extensive community consultation, and likely not for at least five years have been effective.

This acquisition is a long term investment and MPH staff, working collaboratively with OPG staff, successfully built in mechanisms to slow the process and avoid reactive pressures. Although some citizens are understandably keen, adhering to a thoughtful process will achieve advantageous results.

#### Ownership and Landlord Role

Staff have begun formalizing MPH responsibilities such as insurance, site security, signage and other items in anticipation of the March 31<sup>st</sup> closure date.

#### **Financial Considerations:**

There are no financial implications related to this report.

#### **Communication and Public Engagement:**

Community consultation will begin in 2023 subject to Council approval.

#### **Conclusion:**

The purchase of the OPG property creates significant opportunity for the community. A thoughtful approach both in the short term and long term will best serve the community interests. It is expected that community consultation for future use will begin in 2023.