



Municipality of Port Hope

Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review

Council Workshop
December 2, 2025

Existing Ward System – Evaluation

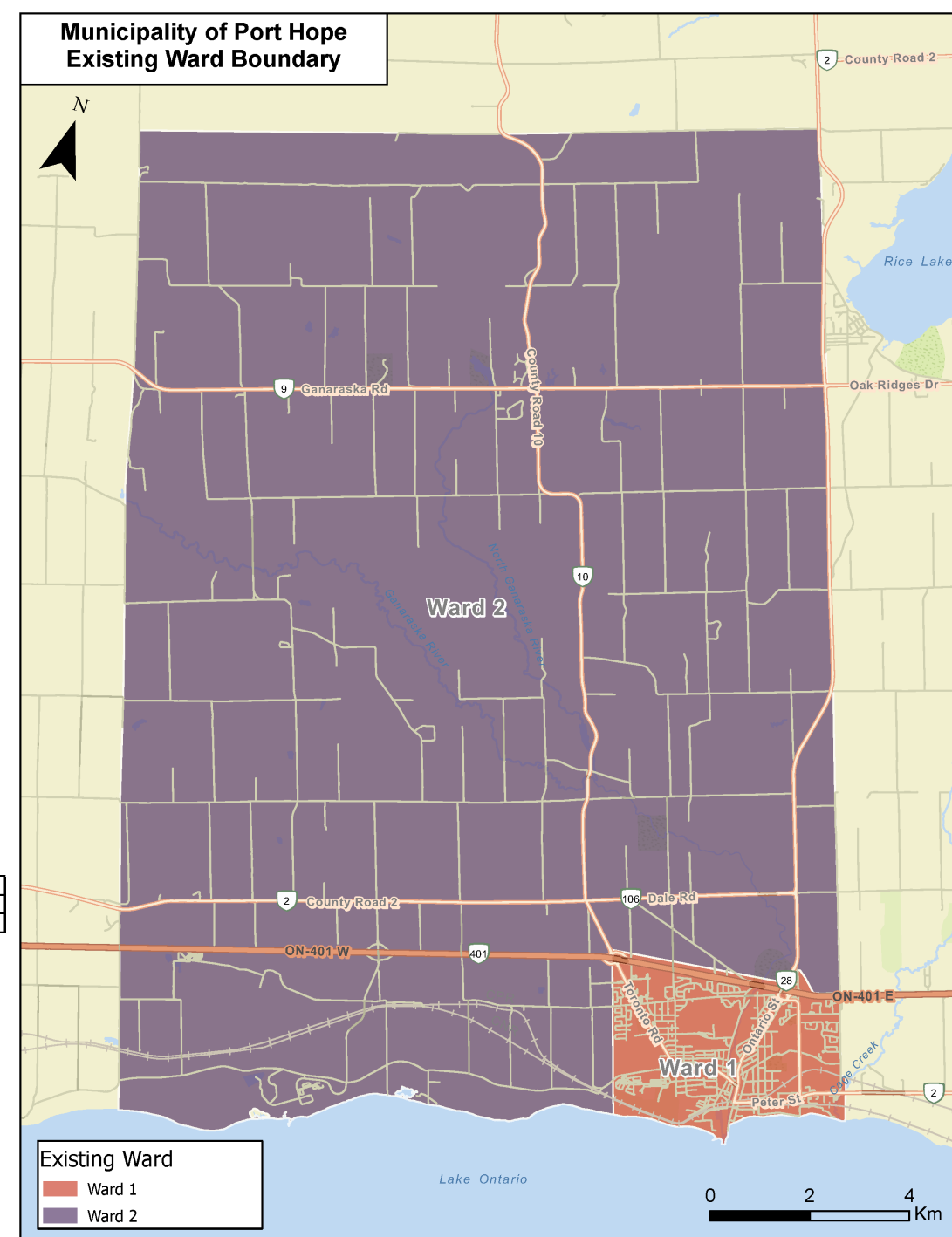
Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle? ^[1]	Comment
Representation by Population	No	Both wards exceed the ±25% range of variation.
Consideration of Future Population and Electoral Trends	No	Population growth will not overcome the existing population imbalance.
Communities of Interest	Partially Successful	The two wards essentially preserve the historical pre-amalgamation municipalities that were dissolved more than 25 years ago. Each ward is itself a mix of distinctive communities.
Geographic and Topographic Boundaries	Yes	There are clear and recognizable boundaries.
Effective Representation	Partially Successful	The asymmetrical relationships between constituents and councillors hinder the achievement of effective representation; however, the current system does provide a distinct voice for both the rural and urban communities making this a partially successful configuration but with significant population discrepancies.

The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as:

- “Yes” (fully satisfied);
- “Largely Successful”;
- “Partially Successful”; or
- “No” (not satisfied)

O	±5% of the Optimal (Average) Population
O-	±5%-25% of the Optimal (Average) Population
OR-	>±25% of the Optimal (Average) Population

Ward	Number of Councillors	2025			2035		
		Total Population	Population Variance by Ward	Optimal Range	Total Population	Population Variance by Ward	Optimal Range
Ward 1	4	13,949	1.53	OR+	16,962	1.58	OR+
Ward 2	2	4,242	0.47	OR-	4,575	0.42	OR-
Total/Average	6	18,191	9,095		21,537	10,768	





The Role of the Deputy Mayor

- Currently, the Deputy Mayor in Port Hope is selected from the elected councillors to serve on an annual basis.
- The Deputy Mayor serves on council and supports the Mayor at various community functions and in other roles as directed by council.
- There is no specific reference in the *Ontario Municipal Act, 2001* to the office of Deputy Mayor. This means that a municipality is not obligated to have a Deputy Mayor.
- There are two basic approaches available to determining who should serve as Deputy Mayor: ***election or appointment.***
- The Consultant Team's recommendation will be delivered in the later stages of this project, dependent on the ***size and composition*** of Port Hope's council that is ultimately recommended.

The Size of Council

- The consultant team explored options where:
 - a. Council stays the same size (7)
 - Councillors remain status quo + Deputy Mayor is appointed from elected councillors
 - Council decreases by 1 + the Deputy Mayor is elected at-large
 - b. Increases (8)
 - Councillors remain status quo + the Deputy Mayor is elected at-large
 - c. Decreases (6)
 - Council decreases by 1, Deputy Mayor is appointed from elected councillors

Ward Configuration	Council Size	2025 Estimated Optimal Population Per Councillor	Notes
3 Wards, 2 Councillors Per Ward	Seven members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • six councillors • the mayor elected at-large 	3,032	Retains current size of council and deputy mayor could be appointed within elected council members.
	Eight members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • six councillors • the deputy mayor elected at-large • the mayor elected at-large 		Increases council size by one by identifying a deputy mayor to be elected at-large along with the mayor. Ward councillor numbers remain the same at six.
5 Wards, 1 Councillor Per Ward	Six members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • five councillors • the mayor elected at-large 	3,638	Decreases current size of council by one and deputy mayor could be appointed within elected council members.
	Seven members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • five councillors • the deputy mayor elected at-large • the mayor elected at-large 		Maintains current size of council by decreasing councillors by one and by identifying a deputy mayor to be elected at-large along with the mayor.
6 Wards, 1 Councillor Per Ward	Seven members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • six councillors • the mayor elected at-large 	3,032	Retains current size of council and deputy mayor could be appointed within elected council members.
	Eight members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • six councillors • the deputy mayor elected at-large • the mayor elected at-large 		Increases council size by one by identifying a deputy mayor to be elected at-large along with the mayor. Ward councillor numbers remain the same at six.

Alternative Ward Configurations

Council Feedback



- **Should the Deputy mayor be elected at large or should that position remain status quo?**
- **Should Port Hope's Council remain the same size?**
 - **If not, should it increase or decrease in size?**

The Urban & Rural Boundary Lines



Should the Consultant Team consider options that combine the urban and rural areas together?

No

Maintain the urban and rural ward boundary lines and focus on keeping a rural voice and representation similar to the status quo

Yes

Move to a more contemporary model with a focus on balanced guiding principles, improving population parity amongst all wards (Population Parity Examples)

Option 1: 3 wards with 2 councillors per ward with or without elected deputy mayor (council goes up by 1 with elected deputy mayor)

Option 2: 5 wards with 1 councillor per ward with or without elected deputy mayor (council stays same with elected deputy mayor or goes down by 1 with deputy mayor selected from within)

Option 3: 6 wards with 1 councillor per ward with or without deputy mayor (council goes up by 1 with elected deputy mayor)



QUESTIONS

