



2020 Ward Boundary Review

Municipality of Clarington

Discussion Paper

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1. Background

The Municipality of Clarington has retained Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. and Dr. Robert Williams and Dr. Zachary Spicer, hereafter referred to as the Consultant Team, to conduct a comprehensive and independent ward boundary review.

The primary purpose of the study is to prepare Clarington Council to make decisions on whether to maintain the existing ward structure or to adopt an alternative. Other matters integral to a comprehensive review are:

- What guiding principles will be observed in the design of the wards?
- Is it appropriate to consider changing the composition (size) of Council as part of the same review?

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

2. Setting

Since 1996, Clarington has had the following basic electoral arrangements:

- Municipal Council has seven members consisting of a Mayor, who is elected at-large,
- Six Councillors, two of whom serve as Regional Councillors.

Clarington is divided into four wards, each of which elects one local Councillor, who sits only on Clarington Council, and two Regional Councillors, who are each elected in a pair of wards. (See Figure 2 for a map of the wards.) The Mayor and the two Regional Councillors sit on both the Regional and Clarington Councils.

The number and distribution of Councillors representing local municipalities on the Regional Council is determined through a process established in Municipal Act, 2001 s. 218. A by-law passed in 2016 by Durham Regional Council under these provisions affirmed that the number of Clarington Regional Councillors would remain at two for the 2018 and 2022 municipal elections and cannot be modified unilaterally by Clarington Council.



There are, however, three basic and inter-connected components of an electoral system that lower-tier municipalities in Ontario can address under existing provincial legislation:

- a) the size of the council of a local municipality (referred to as “the composition of Council” in Municipal Act, 2001 s. 217 (1));
- b) the method of election for Councillors that may be “by general vote or wards or by any combination of general vote and wards” (Municipal Act, 2001 s. 217 (1) 4); and
- c) assuming that Council will be elected by wards, the actual ward configuration, including the number of wards, the number of Councillors to be elected in each ward, and the boundaries of the wards (as implied in Municipal Act, 2001 s. 222 (1)).

The wards in which Councillors are elected in Clarington have remained unchanged since 1996. Population data from 2016 and 2020 (see Table) indicate that the wards are unbalanced in population and that the overall population of Clarington will grow by approximately 30,000 by 2030, primarily within the urban settlement areas (Bowmanville, Courtice, and Newcastle).

3. Parameters for an Electoral Review

The intention of this paper is to provide information to assist Council in making determinations about whether to change some existing electoral arrangements. It is important to note that Council has the authority to decline to make changes to any or all of its electoral structure and is under no obligation to consider them – even in response to a petition submitted by electors related to wards (Municipal Act, 2001 s. 223 (4)).¹

¹ If, however, the Council does not pass a by-law in accordance with such a petition within 90 days after receiving it, any of the petitioners may apply to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) “to have the municipality divided or re-divided into wards or to have the existing wards dissolved.” Note that by-laws in relation to Council composition (s. 217) are not open to appeal to the LPAT.



3.1 “The Composition of Council”

The premises and practices used for determining the overall composition of municipal councils in Ontario has never been satisfactorily or definitively addressed, either in legislation or regulation. There are no clear principles at play, no “standards” and no formulas to apply. Furthermore, there is no established timetable to require that municipal councils review the continuing validity of the number of places at the council table.

The Municipal Act, 2001 establishes the minimum size for the council of a local municipality in Ontario as five, “one of whom shall be the head of council” who must be elected by general vote (s. 217 (1) 1 and (1) 3). There are no references to a maximum or to an “appropriate” size associated with, for example, the population of the municipality. As a result, the composition of local councils in Ontario varies widely. Clarington Council is composed of seven members, two above the minimum of five. See Table 1 to compare Clarington to other municipalities in the Region of Durham.

Table 1: Composition of Councils – Region of Durham

Municipality	2019 Population Estimates	Mayor PLUS:		Total
		Regional Councillors	Local Councillors	
Ajax	129,490	3	3	7
Brock	12,660	1	5	7
Clarington	100,560	2	4	7
Oshawa	175,220	5	5	11
Pickering	98,820	3	3	7
Scugog	21,740	1	5	7
Uxbridge	22,130	1	5	7
Whitby	136,590	4	4	9

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0142-01 Population estimates, July 1, by Census subdivision, 2016 boundaries.



Two components of Clarington Council are outside the control of the Municipal Council: there must be a “head of council” elected by general vote (see above) and two other members are assigned to Clarington by Durham Regional Council (see above). From this perspective, three of the seven members of Clarington Council are each elected to participate in governing two municipalities, since the Mayor serves as both the head of council in Clarington and as one of the Municipality’s representatives on Durham Regional Council.

This leaves four local Councillors whose duties are devoted exclusively to governing the Municipality. The number of local Councillors was adjusted from three to four as part of a reallocation of seats on Durham Regional Council in 1996 (the composition was changed from three local Councillors and three Regional Councillors to four local Councillors and two Regional Councillors). The boundaries of the four wards has not changed since then, when the population of the Municipality was 60,600 people. The 2016 Census of Canada reports a population of approximately 92,000 for Clarington with sizeable further population growth forecast. On this basis, there is at present one local Councillor in Clarington for every 23,000 people.

The optimal size of a Council for Clarington depends on the purpose and role Council is expected to play as a decision-making and representative body. Three interconnected factors could be considered: the capacity of Council to provide effective political management, effective representation, and accountability.

a) Effective political management

A certain number of elected representatives are required to carry out the essential governmental functions of a municipality. The workload of representatives varies with each individual councillor. The size of the council has an impact on the amount of time councillors can allocate to such formal duties and to casework, as well as to their personal, family, and non-political obligations.

b) Effective representation

The heart of “effective representation” (to be discussed more fully in relation to the core principles for a ward system) is the conviction that councillors must be able to maintain contact with constituents. Logically, a larger council would necessitate smaller wards



and be more likely to ensure representatives can maintain close contact with constituents. Conversely, a smaller council would create larger wards and increase the challenge to deliver such representation.

Another aspect of representation relates to what will be referred to as “coherence”: wards will be designed around representing communities of interest within the municipality (discussed fully below). Ideally, wards will include a grouping of well-defined neighbourhoods and districts that are as similar as possible. A ward system built around four local councillors will of necessity include a larger and more diverse collection of neighbourhoods in each ward than a system built around a larger number of local councillors.

c) Accountability

Municipal councillors are not only “political managers” of the municipal corporation but are accountable for their decisions through an election. As such, councillors are adjudicated on their overall performance by voters regularly through the electoral process, providing incentive to, wherever possible, reflect the needs and desires of their wards on council. An effective democratic electoral system should provide voters with an adequate range of opportunities to select municipal legislators. The number of representatives subject to public accountability for their actions is a key indicator of how close or remote the council is to the community. Therefore, a municipal council of seven members in a municipality of more than 90,000 people (let alone with only four members who are dealing exclusively with Clarington issues) is not one that appears to offer such close connections.

d) Other considerations:

- At present, a majority decision of Council requires four votes.
- Almost half the members of Clarington Council serve on two Municipal Councils, thus reducing the time they can devote to governing the Municipality itself. In terms of compensation, those serving on Regional Council were paid approximately \$58,000 (as of 2020) in addition to the salary they receive for serving on the local Council (approximately \$37,900 as of 2020). Furthermore, those serving in a purely local capacity do so on a part-time basis, which may also reduce their ability to focus on issues affecting their community.



- How important is it to have a council in which there is a high degree of debate and discussion – usually associated with a larger body – as opposed to one in which fewer perspectives are heard?

The legislative authority to determine the number of councillors (Municipal Act, 2001 s. 217) rests with the Municipal Council and is distinct from the determination of the method by which they are to be elected. A fundamental question for an electoral review in Clarington therefore must be whether a Council of this size – based on the local and Regional components – is appropriate to govern an increasingly complex Municipality that will be more than 100,000 people by 2022.

3.2 The Method of Election for Councillors

As in the previous discussion, the Municipal Act, 2001 and its regulations offer no guidance on the question of whether a municipality elects its councillors “by general vote or wards or by any combination of general vote and wards.” In addition, there is no consistency across Ontario municipalities. A handful use a mixed ward-general vote system (most notably Thunder Bay) as permitted under the Municipal Act, 2001. No municipality in Ontario with a population greater than 100,000 elects its council entirely through a general vote system.

Clarington was established in 1974 with a 3-ward system, consisting of a Mayor, 3 local councillors and 3 Regional councillors. This system was probably originally adopted to accommodate the main parties to the amalgamation: The Town of Bowmanville, the Village of Newcastle, and the Townships of Clarke and Darlington.

It is primarily because of the presence of several distinct and historically important settlements and neighbourhoods in Clarington that this review should proceed on the supposition that Clarington’s Council will continue to be elected in wards as a way to ensure that the voices of the particular localities are represented around the Council table.

3.3 The Method of Election for Regional Councillors

The present practice of electing the two Regional Councillors in a pair of local wards is not mandatory. It is the conventional practice in the more urbanized municipalities in Durham, such as Ajax, Oshawa, Pickering, and Whitby (see **Error! Reference source**



not found.), that the number of wards is linked directly or indirectly to the number of Regional Councillors. In Clarington, the four local wards are organized into two regional wards to elect two Regional Councillors. In some other parts of Ontario, regional councillors are elected by general vote (for example in Richmond Hill and in the Cities in Waterloo Region).

In Clarington this practice means that, for at least the next election, the ward system would need to provide for an equitable arrangement to elect two Regional Councillors presumably based on wards used to elect local Councillors. If, however, Regional Councillors were elected by general vote and local Councillors in wards, an adjustment of the number of local Councillors could be addressed on its own merits (see above) without being constrained by the number of Regional Councillors.

A change of this kind (from electing Regional Councillors by ward to electing them by general vote or vice versa) has not yet been implemented in any Region in Ontario and the legislation is not clear. There is also no case law on how “representation” is to be understood in such a context.

A Regional council has the authority under Municipal Act, 2001 s. 218 (1) 5 to determine the method of election of councillors (“by general vote or wards or by any combination of general vote and wards”) where members of a council of the upper-tier municipality are “directly elected to the upper-tier council and not to the council of a lower-tier municipality.”¹ This is, of course, not the situation in Clarington since Councillors serve on both Councils. As discussed earlier, under Municipal Act, 2001 s. 217 (1) 4, local councils have the authority to determine how the members of such a council are to be elected (“other than the head of council, [they] shall be elected by general vote or wards or by any combination of general vote and wards”). This section of the Act does not distinguish between councillors elected to the lower-tier council and those elected to the upper-tier council.

¹ Under section 218 (2) (b), an upper-tier council has the power to change “the method of selecting members of the council” but this refers to “having members directly elected to the upper-tier council and not to the council of a lower-tier municipality, members elected to serve on both the upper-tier and lower-tier councils or members elected to the lower-tier councils and appointed to the upper-tier council by the lower-tier municipalities, or a combination of methods of election.”



In either case, there appears to be legislative authority to modify the method of election of upper-tier councillors, something that could be considered as a way to address some of the constraints associated with requiring an even number of wards to elect Clarington's Regional Councillors.

3.4 Ward Configuration

Assuming that Council determines that local Councillors will continue to be elected by ward and that the composition of Council has been affirmed, further questions need to be considered: first, will local Councillors be elected in single-member or multi-member wards? Once again, there is no guidance in legislation and no "standard" practice. Most Ontario cities use single-member wards but some, such as Guelph, Brantford, and Orillia, elect Councillors in two-member wards. Occasionally there are unique configurations such as Brampton where there are ten wards but only five City Councillors, and Timmins where four wards elect one Councillor each and one ward elects four Councillors. A system in which each ward elects the same number of Councillors is typical and more easily explained and justified.

The choice between two-member and one-member wards reflects certain expectations and understandings about how representation works. It is important to note that if there are, say, 23,000 people living in a particular two-member ward, this does not mean that each councillor is only responsible for 11,500 of those people; each councillor is responsible to all residents.

Defenders of two-member wards normally frame their assessment in terms of sharing workload between the two councillors. Most defenders of the single-member system frame their assessment in terms of accountability. The pertinent point here is that opting for one model or the other is an acceptance of the strengths and weaknesses inherent in each one. There is no "right" or "wrong" format to elect councillors and the choice of one over the other does not directly influence a ward boundary review.

3.5 Core Principles to Design Wards

The Municipality of Clarington has established core principles and other directions for an electoral review and the reason is simple: provincial legislation is silent on the matters that could be considered by a municipality when establishing or modifying its



electoral system. There are some precedents that can be gathered from cases previously heard by the Ontario Municipal Board (O.M.B.) (now known as the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal or LPAT), examples of successful electoral reviews in other Ontario municipalities, and judicial rulings on representation (in particular the “Carter” decision – see below) that may be applicable. A review of electoral arrangements in Clarington should be based on Clarington’s own circumstances and objectives.

Municipal ward boundary review best practices in Ontario, O.M.B./LPAT hearings, and judicial decisions suggest that an electoral system based on wards should meet the following core principles or guidelines:

Representation by Population

- The central goal is population parity; every local Councillor should generally represent an equal number of constituents, with some variation permitted for residential density across the Municipality.
- The range of population variance should not exceed 25% unless it can be justified to meet one of the other criteria.

Population Trends

- Ward boundaries should consider and accommodate the Municipality’s projected growth and population shifts to maintain a general equilibrium in representation by population, over a three-election cycle (2022, 2026, 2030).

Community Access and Connections

- Ward boundaries should, to the extent possible, reflect customary transportation and communication relationships among communities within the Municipality.
- Wards should be contiguous in shape and as compact as possible.

Geographic or Topographical Features

- Ward boundaries should be straightforward and easily recognizable and where possible should make use of permanent “natural” features and geographic features, such as roads, railways and utility corridors.



Community or Diversity of Interests

- Ward boundaries should recognize neighbourhoods and community groupings (social, historical, economic, religious, and political diversities) while at the same time, not fragmenting such communities.

Effective Representation

- The previous five principles are subject to the overarching principle of “effective representation” as stated by the Supreme Court of Canada in the Carter case.¹
- To achieve effective representation, each resident should have comparable access to their elected representative and each local Councillor should speak in governmental deliberations on behalf of an equal number of residents.

The principles identified above contribute to effective 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.

3.6 The Consultation Process

Before 2006, the Municipal Act, 2001 required a Council to hold a public meeting before adopting a by-law to modify its ward boundaries. Today that is no longer a legislated requirement, but a municipal electoral system must be subject to a public consultation process to ensure the legitimacy of the recommendations placed before Council. This expectation has been affirmed in a number of O.M.B./LPAT decisions.

Public engagement activities will be conducted under Clarington’s established protocols and policies, and will be aimed at both informing residents about the review (including the key factors that are being considered) and gathering informed evaluations from residents about the existing system and alternative designs. Consultations will take place in accordance with public health guidelines aimed at reducing the potential spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). As such, several outlets have been designed for Clarington residents to safely participate in the review process, including virtual

¹ Reference re: Provincial Electoral Boundaries (Saskatchewan) [1991] 2 S.C.R. This is often cited as the “Carter” decision.



consultation sessions, an information website, and a survey designed to solicit feedback on the current ward structure.

It is important to be clear that a ward boundary review is not a popularity contest and that the integrity of the review and the recommendations made to Council are not inherently compromised if there is a low level of public participation in the consultations. In addition, the review will be conducted at arm's-length from staff and Council to ensure its legitimacy.

One important consequence of conducting an effective and independent review is that residents should be well-enough informed about the conduct of the entire review – and should be satisfied enough with the decision reached by Council – that there will be little incentive to appeal a by-law to the LPAT under s. 222 (4) of the Municipal Act, 2001.

The initial sessions are intended to inform the public on the ward boundary review process, the composition of Council, and the core principles adopted for the project. Those who participate will have an opportunity to provide input on potential changes to the arrangements for electing Council and the priority to be attached to the various core principles.

4. Municipality of Clarington Population and Growth Trends

As previously discussed, one of the basic premises of representative democracy in Canada is the belief that the geographic areas used to elect a representative should be reasonably balanced with one another in terms of population. In order to evaluate the existing ward structure and subsequent alternatives in terms of representation by population in the existing year (2020), a detailed population estimate for the Municipality and its respective wards and communities will be prepared.

4.1 Existing Population and Structure

Clarington's wards were developed in 1996 when the population of the Municipality was approximately 60,600 people. The 2016 Census of Canada reports a population of approximately 92,000, a growth of over 31,400 (50%). Municipal estimates show that the population of Clarington in 2020 is approximately 102,900, additional growth of approximately 10,000, and will continue to grow. By 2031, the Municipality of Clarington



is estimated to reach a population of 140,300 (including an estimated 4.0% Census undercount).

In more recent trends, since 2011 Clarington has experienced significant growth (approximately 18,340 people) with much of that growth occurring within Bowmanville and Ward 2. As shown in Table , Ward 2 has grown by 37% (approximately 8,800) from 2011 to 2020, Ward 1 has grown by 14% (4,000) and Wards 3 and 4 have each had similar population growth of 2,700.

Table 2: Population by Ward, 2011-2020

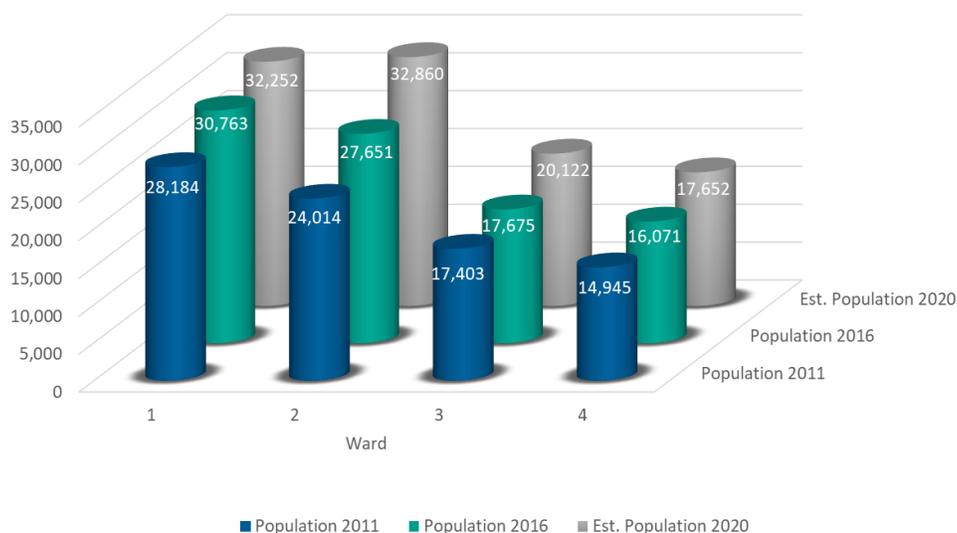
Ward	Population 2011	Population 2016	Est. Population 2020	2011-2020 Growth	2011-2020 Growth %
1	28,184	30,763	32,252	4,068	14%
2	24,014	27,651	32,860	8,846	37%
3	17,403	17,675	20,122	2,719	16%
4	14,945	16,071	17,652	2,707	18%
Total	84,546	92,160	102,886	18,340	22%

Source: Municipality of Clarington

Currently, Ward 1 and Ward 2 have significantly larger population shares than that of Wards 3 and 4. Both Wards 1 and 2 account for over 30% of the Municipality's population, leaving Ward 3 with 20% and Ward 4 at 17% of the total 2020 population.



Figure 1: Population by Ward, 2011 to 2020



4.2 Forecast Population Growth, 2020 to 2030

With the Municipality of Clarington forecast to experience significant population growth over the next decade, it is important that this study assess the representation by population for both existing and future year populations. In accordance with the study terms of reference, the analysis will consider representation of population over the next three municipal elections through 2030. As such, a population and housing forecast for the Municipality of Clarington and its communities for the 2020 to 2030 period will be prepared.

5. Preliminary Evaluation of the Status Quo

This section reviews the existing ward structure in Clarington in terms of the identified core principles. The existing ward structure is presented in Figure 2 for reference purposes.

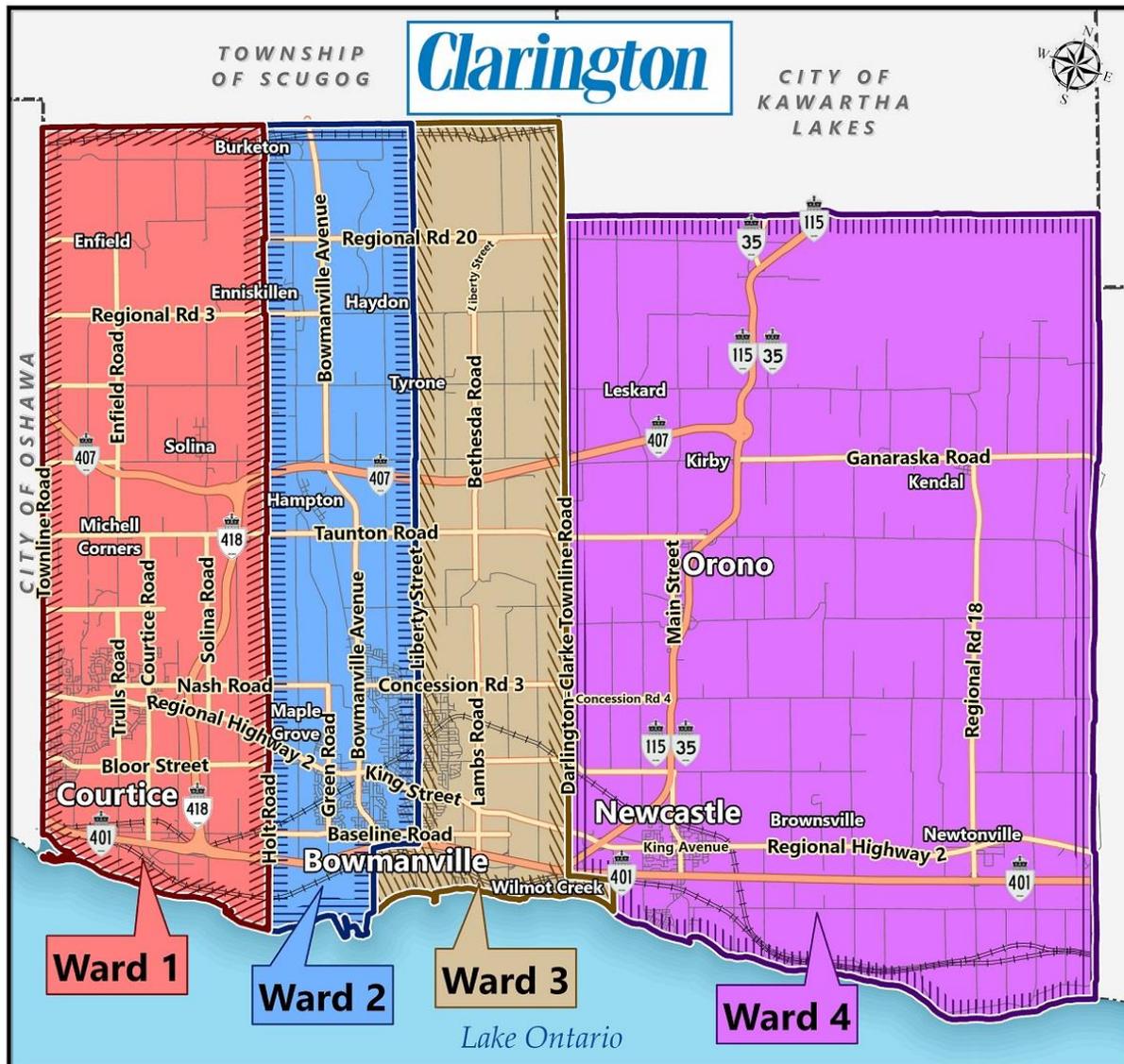
Representation by Population

The objective of population parity (every Councillor generally representing an equal number of constituents within his or her respective ward) is the primary goal of an electoral redistribution with some degree of variation acceptable in light of population



densities and demographic factors across the Municipality. The indicator of success in a ward design is the extent to which all the individual wards approach an “optimal” size. Based on the Municipality’s overall 2016 population (92,160), Census data, and a four-ward system, the optimal population size for a local ward will be 23,040. By 2020, the overall estimated population is 102,886 and the optimal population size for a local ward is considered to be 25,722.

Figure 2: Existing Ward Structure





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. 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.

Preliminary Assessment:

- Population data suggests two wards are outside the acceptable range of variance and a third is approaching the lower end of the defined range of variation.
- None of the wards can be considered to fall within the acceptable range of “parity.”
- By 2020, two of the wards are outside the acceptable range of variance and the other two are at or close to the outer edge of the range.
- There is also a large disparity in the wards represented by Regional Councillors. The Regional Councillor representing Wards 1 and 2 has over 58,000 residents (using 2016 population data), while the Regional Councillor representing Wards 3 and 4 has only 34,000 residents.
- Based upon this information, the present wards fail to adhere to the representation by population principle.

Table 3: Population by Existing Ward, 2016 and 2020

	Population 2016	Variance		Estimated Population 2020	Variance	
1	30,763	1.34	OR +	32,252	1.25	O +
2	27,651	1.20	O +	32,860	1.27	OR +
3	17,675	0.77	O -	20,122	0.78	O -
4	16,071	0.70	OR -	17,652	0.69	OR -
Total	92,160	Optimal	23,040	102,886	Optimal	25,722



Population Trends

The composition of Clarington's ward boundaries should adequately accommodate future growth and population shifts. Clarington is, and has been, growing quite rapidly, which spurred the need for a ward boundary review. This process needs to not only account for the population of Clarington as it currently stands, but also how it is projected in the future.

Preliminary Assessment:

- The communities of Courtice, Bowmanville, and Newcastle are expected to experience more rapid growth as compared to the rest of the Municipality.
- Much of Clarington has restrictions placed upon future growth, through the provincial growth plan, which directs development to established population centres. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect growth in the following communities: Bowmanville, Courtice, and Newcastle.
- The current ward structure would not suitably accommodate future population growth. Population disparities throughout the wards would be expected to worsen through the 2022, 2026, and 2030 election cycles.

Community Access and Connections

Ward should have a “natural” feel to those who live within them, meaning that they should have established communication and transportation linkages, and boundaries should be drawn taking existing connections into mind. This is done to avoid creating wards that combine communities with disparate interests and patterns of interaction.

Preliminary Assessment:

- The current ward system encapsulates Clarington's three major communities: Courtice (Ward 1), Bowmanville (Wards 2 and 3), and Newcastle (Ward 4). Clarington's fourth largest community – Orono – is also contained in Ward 4.
- Many of these communities have a rich history, a tradition of self-sufficiency, and exercise some measure of social autonomy from the rest of the Municipality.
- Clarington's existing wards run narrowly from Lake Ontario to the Municipality's northern border, which attaches northern, rural hamlets to communities in the more populated south.



- These communities have few natural social or economic connections. Northern communities that span across all wards tend to have more in common in terms of social and economic connections than they do with communities in the south.
- It is difficult to argue that the current ward system provides suitable connections between all communities.

Geographic and Topographical Features

Ward boundaries should be easily recognizable and take advantage of natural and built geographic features. Many of these features tend to separate communities with municipalities, which usually explains their historical use and boundary dividing lines between existing wards. Where possible, these features should be used to separate wards to ensure the wards are designed in a logical and straight-forward fashion. Simply put, the boundaries of the wards should make sense.

Preliminary Assessment:

- The existing wards take advantage of prominent geographical features, such as major transportation routes (e.g. Liberty Street in Bowmanville separating Wards 2 and 3) and historical markers (e.g. Darlington-Clarke Townline separating Wards 3 and 4), and respect the contemporary “white belt” areas that lie between Courtice and Bowmanville, and Bowmanville and Newcastle.
- Existing ward boundaries have the advantage of being straightforward and easy to comprehend, as they follow traditional growth patterns and historical settlement within Clarington and easily recognizable features.

Community or Diversity of Interests

Care should be taken to ensure communities of interest remain intact during the design of ward boundaries. Such communities represent social and economic groups that generally have deep historical roots. When possible, they should be maintained in the same political community. These communities are often geographic in nature, representing growth from historical settlements. These communities, however, can also be social, historical, economic, or religious in nature, depending on the history and composition of the municipality in question.



Preliminary Assessment:

- Most residents living in each of the four major communities in Clarington – Courtice, Bowmanville, Newcastle, and Orono – strongly identify with their own communities over the Municipality as a whole.
- The existing ward system largely protects these major community connections and maintains existing large geographic communities of interest within Clarington.
- Many northern and rural communities in Clarington have the same strong community identification. While these historical hamlets do not have a population sufficient enough to warrant the creation of their own wards, each have interests more aligned with each other than with the larger communities to their south.
- Many of the economic and cultural interests that dominate rural Clarington, such as the agricultural sector, lack an effective voice on Council being split between the four existing wards.
- While the existing ward structure provides adequate support for the major geographic communities of interest, it largely fails to account for certain economic and cultural communities that are distributed over several wards.

Effective Representation

As stated above, the five principles are subject to the overarching principle of “effective representation,” meaning that each resident should have comparable access to their elected representative and each local Councillor should speak on behalf of an equal number of residents.

Preliminary Assessment:

- The current population disparities between wards are too great to achieve effective representation. These disparities are likely to grow in the future.

6. The Preliminary Options

In the coming weeks, the Consultant Team will engage the community widely and produce an interim report for Council with a preliminary evaluation of the existing wards. The team will then produce a series of preliminary options for the public and Council to consider. Through further consultation on these preliminary options, the Consultant Team will provide a final report and a recommended ward boundary structure for



Council, who will ultimately make the final decision on how best to design Clarington's ward boundaries. The principles discussed above will guide the decision-making of the Consultant Team. The consultation process will help guide the thinking around which principles – population parity or communities of interest, for instance – should take precedence, given Clarington's history, culture, economy, settlement patterns, and population forecasts.