



Township of Wellington North

YEAR IN REVIEW

2022



7490 Sideroad 7 W, PO Box 125, Kenilworth, Ontario N0G 2E0

1-866-848-3620

www.wellington-north.com

FIND INSIDE

- 3 INTRODUCTION
- 4 COUNCIL
- 5 STAFFING
- 5 MAP
- 6 PROGRAMS & SERVICES
- 7 MAYOR'S MESSAGE
- 8 2022 HIGHLIGHTS
- 12 STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW



COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WELLINGTON ADVERTISER
INSIDE PHOTOS ARE COURTESY OF WELLINGTON NORTH STAFF AND THE WELLINGTON ADVERTISER



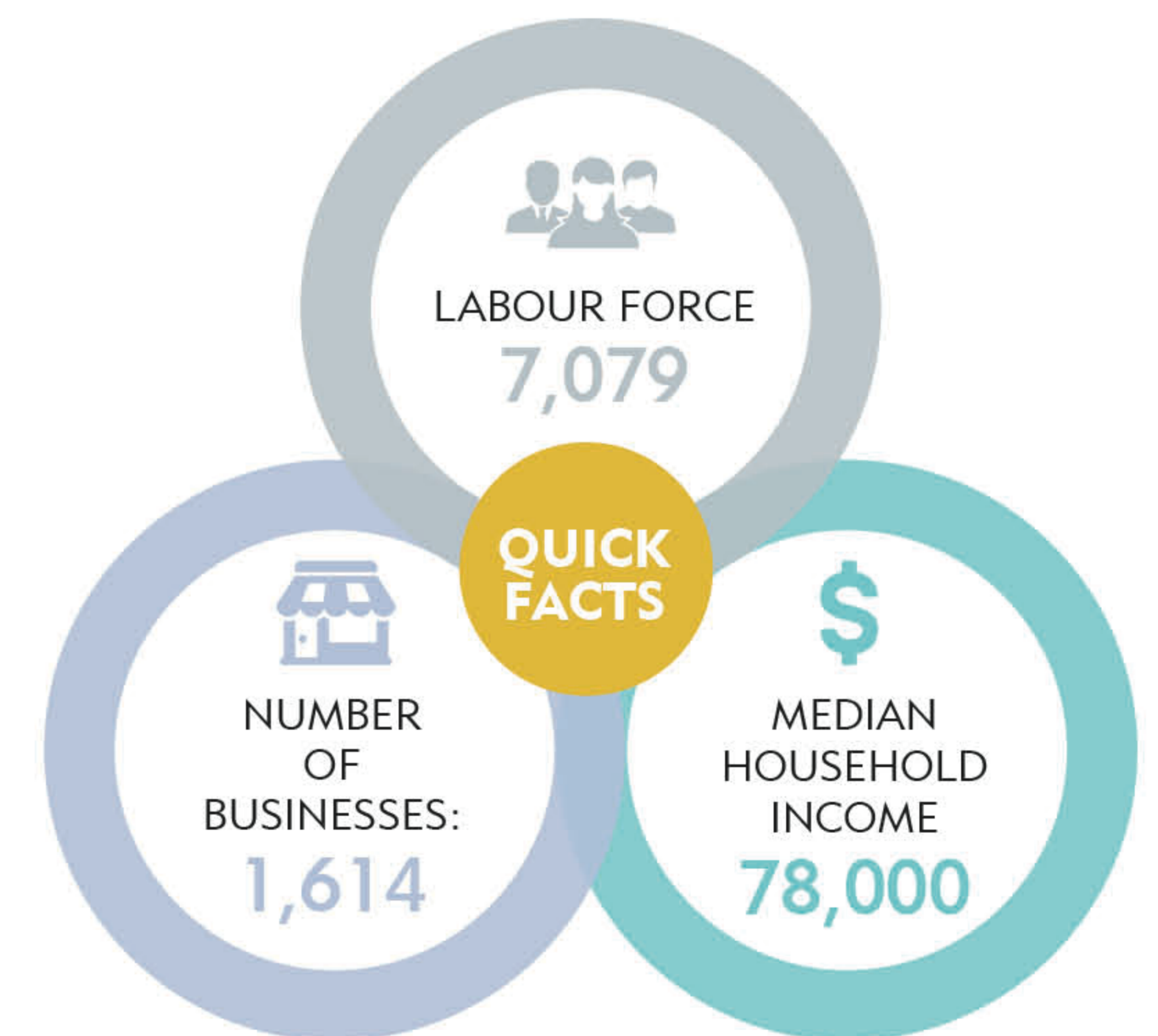
ARTHUR 150 PARADE STREAMING DOWN GEORGE STREET, ARTHUR

INTRODUCTION

The Township of Wellington North at a Glance

The Township of Wellington North was formed in 1999 with the amalgamation of the Town of Mount Forest, the Village of Arthur, the Townships of West Luther and Arthur, as well as some of the outlying areas in the Townships of Peel and West Garafraxa. Stretching over 526 square kilometres, it is now home to over 12,500 people – and is expected to grow to approximately 20,500 people by 2051 (an increase of more than 64 %).

Wellington North is a well-diversified and evolving Township - with a strong industrial and manufacturing employment base, as well as a strong agricultural and agri-food business sector. The community is also home to many walking and cycling trails, unique stores and gift shops as well as many cultural and historical amenities and exciting events. This includes the Fireworks Festival, one of the top 100 festivals in Ontario.



BACK ROW, FROM LEFT: STEVE McCABE (WARD 4) AND SHERRY BURKE (WARD 2). FRONT: LISA HERN (WARD 3), MAYOR ANDY LENNOX AND PENNY RENKEN (WARD 1).



TOWNSHIP OF WELLINGTON NORTH COUNCIL

The Township of Wellington North Council is governed by an elected Council of five members, who each serve a four-year term.

The Mayor and Council are responsible for developing the long-range vision for the future of the community. Council establishes policies that affect the overall operation of the township and are responsive to residents' needs and priorities.

To ensure that these policies are carried out and that the community receives the services they need, Council appoints a Chief Administrative Officer who is directly responsible for the Township's administration.



THANK YOU

We would also like to thank long time councillor **DAN YAKE** for all his contributions to the Township - in his over 25 years of service.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Senior Management Team is responsible for implementing the direction set out by Township Council, including providing efficient, high-quality services for the community as well as overseeing the sustainable and responsible use of township resources. It is led by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and includes the Heads of the following departments:

- BUILDING
- CLERKS
- FINANCE
- FIRE
- HUMAN RESOURCES
- OPERATIONS
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

STAFFING

43 FULL TIME TOTAL
Full time non union: 24
Full time union: 19

7 PART TIME

40 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

15 SEASONAL OR TERM / TASK



DID YOU KNOW

that the Township delivers **7** programs, with over **25** services?

THESE INCLUDE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Water Distribution, Wastewater Collection

CORPORATE SERVICES

Human Resources, Financial Management, Information Technology, Clerks

DEVELOPMENT

Land Use Planning, Building Permits, Economic Development

TRANSPORTATION

Road Construction and Maintenance, Sidewalks, Street Lighting, Winter Maintenance, Bridges and Culverts, Fleet Management

PUBLIC SAFETY

By-law Enforcement, Building Inspections, Fire Services, Animal Control

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Recreation Facilities and Programming, Parks and Open Spaces, Cemeteries

PLUS
The County of Wellington also delivers the following services to Township residents:

- Emergency Management
- Environment
- Garbage and Recycling
- Library
- Long term care
- Museum and Archives
- Planning and Development
- Roads



MAYOR ANDY LENNOX

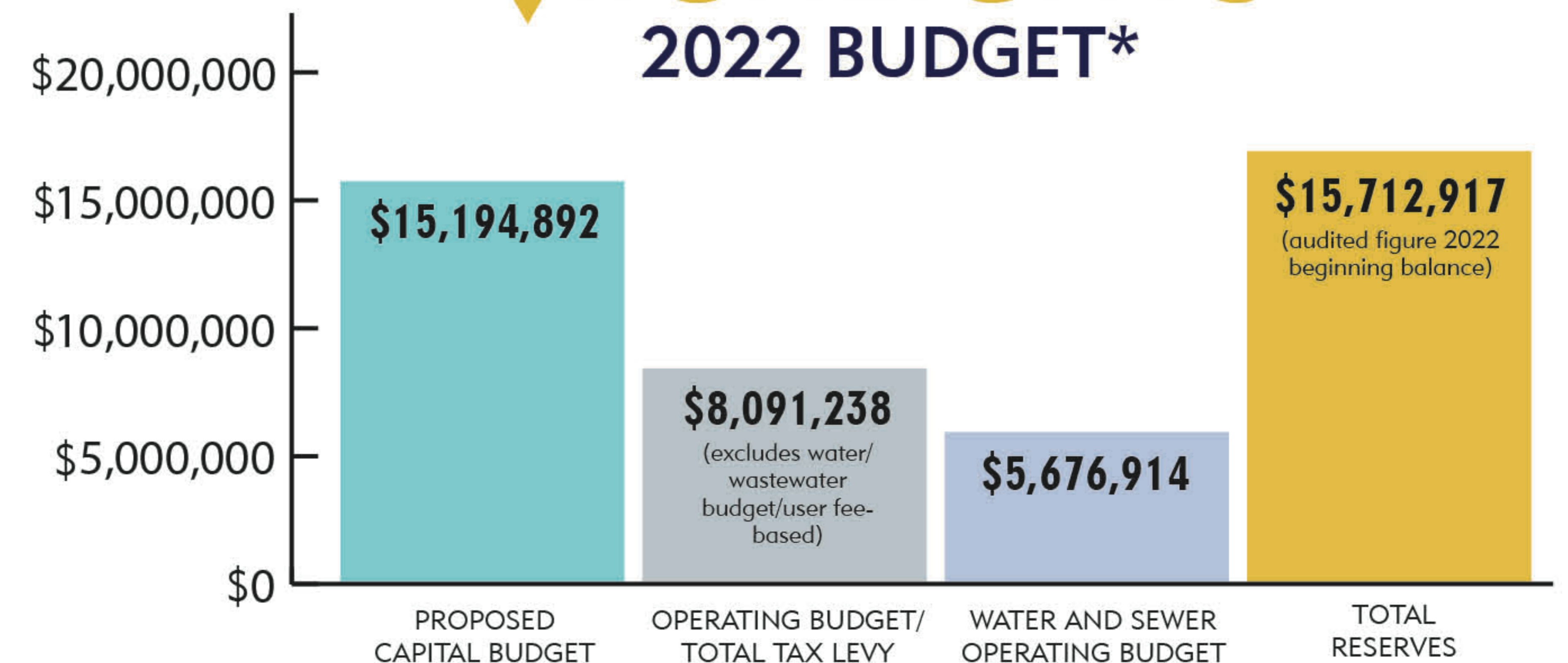
MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The Township of Wellington North is a vibrant, beautiful place to live, work and play. While the past several years have had many challenges, I am proud to showcase the efforts of our committed Council, staff and community in this 2022 Year in Review.

2022 was a year of transition for the Township. Our community is growing and new development is creating attainable housing options for our residents – including purpose built rentals. We continue to support that growth with the infrastructure that’s also needed – this included several road and underground pipe reconstruction projects, as well as improvements to many of our recreational facilities (playgrounds, sports fields, and recreation centres).

Our Township is changing, but we continue to preserve and protect what makes us unique as a community. This is a community for everyone – and I want to congratulate the dedicated staff and community partners who have played a key role in these accomplishments.

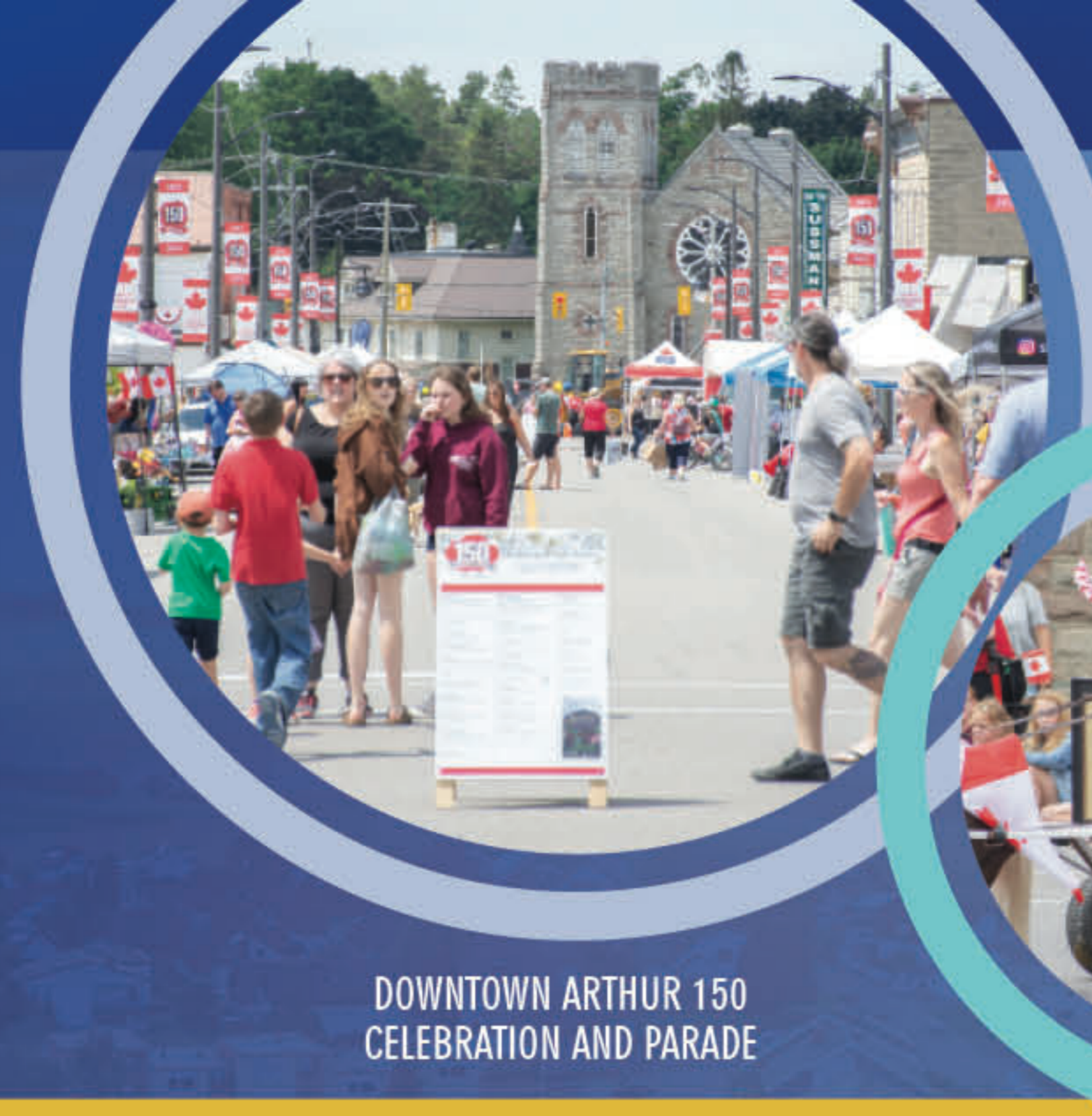
HIGHLIGHTS 2022 BUDGET*



HIGHLIGHTS SERVING YOU IN 2022

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The 2022 Year in Review provides an overview of the Township's accomplishments during the past fiscal year. The following section includes some highlights of the projects and initiatives that were completed as part of the 7 core programs that the Township delivers.



DOWNTOWN ARTHUR 150 CELEBRATION AND PARADE



VETERAN JOHN WALSH HELPING TO CUT THE RIBBON FOR ARTHUR 150



BRENT BARNES MEMORIAL SKATEPARK

GOVERNANCE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- Launched our new and improved **Township website** – which went live on February 3rd.
- The **Municipal Election** was held with a 36.7 % voter turn-out. The new 2022-2026 Council was sworn in on Monday, November 21.
- The Township implemented **Hybrid Council Meetings** to extend participation options to Council, staff and the public.
- Many deputations were received by the **Recreation Parks and Leisure Committee** – this forum continues to provide community members with the opportunity to speak and share ideas.
- Two **public Housing Forums** were held to help inform and prepare the community for the growth that is and will continue to occur in our community.
- In the spring a **volunteer celebration** was held in Arthur. This was followed by another **volunteer and newcomer celebration** held in Mount Forest in the fall. In total over 400 people attended both events.

CORPORATE SERVICES

- **Several key initiatives** were undertaken to ensure that the Township has resources needed to deliver the services it is responsible for. This included, a Non-Union Wage Market Check, Union negotiations and recruitment for several administrative positions, including the Chief Administrative Officer, Treasurer, Human Resources Manager and Administrative Support.
- The Township also celebrated several **retirements of long-standing employees**. This included David Hill (46+ years of service), Doug McGilloway (18+ years of service), Marlin Herriott (45+ years of service) and George Laughlin (15+ years of service). Congratulations and all the best!!
- The Township transitioned to a **new Information Technology Service provider**. This process not only accomplished with minimal disruption, it also allowed staff to standardize many IT policies and procedures, upgrade to O365 premium, enhance our cyber protection and upgrade our telephone systems.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

RECREATION:

- **The Campbell DeVore Playground** in Mount Forest was completely rehabilitated and made accessible (\$145,000 investment).
- **The Roy Grant Playground** in Mount Forest had an accessible play surface installed including a sidewalk from Parkside Drive (\$45,000 investment). New swings were also installed at Hutchison Park.
- Thanks to a generous community donation, the **Donald Ball Diamond** received new roofs over the dugout and the entire field was updated to “a red clay diamond”.
- Council supported the subsidized **training of lifeguards** so that future staff will be ready to participate in our swimming programs in the future.
- **Mount Forest Outdoor Pool and Aquatics Centre** conceptual design was approved by Council following a public meeting that was held in March.
- **Brent Barnes Memorial Skatepark** was opened July 1st for the Arthur 150 with support from the Arthur Lion's Club.

CULTURE:

- Council adopted the updated **Municipal Cultural Plan** and remains committed to the Guiding Assumptions and Vision of “Preserving, promoting and developing Wellington North’s unique cultural resources to build a vibrant and prosperous community” as first adopted by council in 2013.
- **The Wellington North Culture Days** were held from Sept 23rd – Oct 16th.

PUBLIC SPACES:

- **The Mount Forest fairground improvements** were started by Township staff – special thanks to roads teams for support!
- **Rural Economic Development (RED) grant funding of \$30,000** obtained to support Mount Forest Downtown Revitalization programs in partnership with the Mount Forest BIA and included a downtown BMO parkette & mural, and downtown wifi.

EVENTS:

- **Arthur 150 celebration** was a hoot over the Canada Day weekend.
- **Fireworks Festival** was back with a blast in July!

OPERATIONS:

- The Township team took over **lawn mowing maintenance** in Mount Forest after the retirement of the long serving contractor.
- Four HVAC units were replaced on the **Mount Forest and District Sports Complex** following a damaging hailstorm.
- The Township purchased a **new ice re-surfacer** (\$100,000 investment).
- A generator was installed at the **Mount Forest and District Sports Complex** funded by an ICIP grant.
- The Township replaced the cooling tower expansion tanks for the **Arthur compressor plant**.

VOLUNTEER AND NEWCOMER CELEBRATION EVENTS



HIGHLIGHTS SERVING YOU IN 2022

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The 2022 Year in Review provides an overview of the Township's accomplishments during the past fiscal year. The following section includes some highlights of the projects and initiatives that were completed as part of the 7 core programs that the Township delivers.



GRAND OPENING OF THE ARTHUR OPTI-MRS PLAYGROUND.

LOUISE MARSHALL HOSPITAL



BRENT BARNES MEMORIAL SKATE PARK RIBBON CUTTING



MACDONALD-SCHWINDT SPLASHPAD TRIBUTE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- A **new watermain** was installed on Queen Street East, east of Main Street, as part of the connecting link project (\$500,000 investment).
- A **new watermain** was installed on Domville as part of the reconstruction project (\$250,000 investment).
- The Township continued to seek and study a **new water source** for Arthur (\$100,000 investment). Initial findings were positive with further study recommended.
- The Water team purchased a **new valve turning machine** which is used to test and maintain the drinking water system (\$115,000 investment).

DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- This was the ninth year for **Wellington North Farmers Market** (including 15+ vendors). 2022 was viewed as most successful year to date.

- The Township received the **Digital Main Street Grant** in the amount of \$58,700 – all to support small business take advantage of digital technologies.
- This was the third year supporting **Youth Entrepreneurship** (Student StartUp Program). Over the three years 147 students have participated.
- It was also the second year for **Advancement of Women (AWE)** program series of online webinars.
- 12 **Community Improvement Plan** applicants, approved for \$26,411 in funding.
- 36 organizations were also approved for \$51,895 in grants under the **Grants & Donations Community Development Fund**.
- **The Shop Local Sidewalk Saturday events** held in Arthur on July 2nd and in Mount Forest on August 13th.
- **The Township also supported** the Western Ontario's Warden Caucus, Workforce Strategy initiative and report and the WWD workforce planning board employer one survey.

RECOGNITION

Congratulations to the **Township and County Economic Development Teams** for their work on the Farmers Market Box Program. This County-wide program won an Economic Development Council of Ontario (EDCO) Community Economic Development Award as well as a 2022 Excellence Award from The International Economic Development Council (IEDC). Way to Go!

DEVELOPMENT:

- Continued to move the servicing of the Wellington North owned **West Grey Lands discussion** forward with Wellington County & Grey County. Included in the MCR process for both counties.
- **New roads, watermain, sanitary and storm sewers** were installed and commissioned within the Cachet Development in Arthur.
- **Sewage allocation policy** was again brought forward through Council in April and remains a key policy of Council in the regulation / control of development.
- County continued to work through their **Municipal Comprehensive Review of the Official Plan** with support of local Council and staff.

BUILDING SERVICES

2022 was a record year for Building Services with:

- 414 building permits issued worth \$110,357,371 in construction value
- 248 residential building permits resulting in 269 new dwellings
- 34 industrial, commercial, institutional building permits
- 74 agricultural building permits
- 30 septic system permits
- 22 demolition permits

BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT (City of Guelph Contract)

- 194 Property Standard complaints received, with 11 cancelled and 176 resolved. As of December 2022, 7 complaints were open with by-law officers working towards compliance with property owners.

TRANSPORTATION

- The Queen Street East, east of Main St, was reconstructed using **Connecting Link** funding from the province.
- The Township studied **storm water management** in the Birmingham East / London Road area of Mount Forest.
- Detailed **storm mapping** was developed for the Township's provincial submission for its Consolidated Linear Infrastructure Environmental Compliance Approval certificate.
- The Township replaced ~ **\$1 million dollars** of existing vehicles and equipment.

PUBLIC SAFETY

WELLINGTON NORTH FIRE

Responded to approximately 367 calls between the Mount Forest and Arthur Stations. This included:

- 23 Fire
- 59 Rescue
- 107 Medical
- 18 Public Hazard
- 160 Other
- Averaged 209 training hours per month

DIGITAL MAIN STREET'S NEILA



WATER STAFF



FARMERS' MARKET



RECREATION STAFF



STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

Over the past several terms of Council, the Township of Wellington North has been developing its strategic planning framework.

The following highlights some of the main accomplishments of the previous strategic plan over the last 4 years.

FOCUS AREA



DOWNTOWN BMO PARKETTE, MOUNT FOREST BIA

WELLINGTON NORTH SHUFFLEBOARD



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH FEATURED "PUMPKINFEST" FOR WELLINGTON NORTH CULTURE DAYS



MOUNT FOREST LAWN BOWLING

In 2019, the latest iteration of the plan was approved and included four priority focus areas:

MODERNIZATION AND EFFICIENCY

The Township focused on this priority by:

- 1 Upgrading systems and processes** to allow for electronic planning and development submissions – a key improvement that kept business moving smoothly through the disruptions caused by the Pandemic.
- 2 Implementing several new software systems**, allowing the organization to streamline operations and improve information and reporting capabilities (for example, joining "Sourcewell" – a cooperative municipal purchasing platform).
- 3 Embracing hybrid council meetings** to encourage more flexible options for community participation in decision making.
- 4 Undertaking several key studies**, including the County Wide Service Review (2019) and the IT Service Delivery Review (2020) to identify opportunities for collaboration, efficiency, and service improvements.
- 5 Establishing service agreements** that leveraged Township resources to find new efficiencies, expand capacity or improve service levels (Minto/WN Fire Services Partnership, County Planning Relationship, Guelph By-Law).

PARTNERSHIPS

The Township focused on this priority by:

- 1 Supporting the Saugeen Connects partnership** with Minto, West Grey, Aaran-Elderslie, Brockton, Town of Hanover, and the Saugeen Economic Development Corporation. In 2022 the partnership expanded to include South Bruce as well. The focus for this team effort includes: Youth Entrepreneurship, advancement of women and workforce development/attraction programs.
- 2 Participating in the Northern Wellington Economic Development partnership** with Minto & Mapleton. This work has focused on encouraging "the Digital Main Street" as well as leveraging our tourism & promotion dollars.
- 3 Developing a Volunteer Engagement Program.** This program has been a huge success with 20+ organizations setting up information booths to support our Newcomer Celebrations. Congratulations go to our "Volunteer of the Year" Faye Craig (2021) and Kay Ayres (2022).
- 4 Supporting the Mount Forest Lawn Bowling and New Growth Family Centre** that enabled both groups to receive Emergency Community Support Funds from the CW Community Foundation.
- 5 Submitting several successful grant applications;** Connecting Link (George/Smith & Queen East Street); Modernization Funding (multiple projects); ICIP Green Stream (Mount Forest standpipe).
- 6 Accessing funds related to the Covid Response and Resilience program** – this included the ICIP COVID Resilience fund that helped support Arthur Sidewalk Improvements, and the Mount Forest and District Sports Complex Generator.

BELOW PHOTO SHOWS A LAWN THAT WAS "FLOCKED" IN MOUNT FOREST. THIS WAS A MOUNT FOREST AQUATICS AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY.



MODERNIZATION AND EFFICIENCY

PARTNERSHIPS

MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

ALIGNMENT AND INTEGRATION

STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

Over the past several terms of Council, the Township of Wellington North has been developing its strategic planning framework.

The following highlights some of the main accomplishments of the previous strategic plan over the last 4 years.

FOCUS AREA



INSTALLING OF ROADS AND CULVERTS

WHAT'S NEXT

IT'S AN EXCITING TIME IN WELLINGTON NORTH!

While the past several years have certainly had their challenges, this is a time to continue talking about what is important to our community.



The Township of Wellington North is starting to develop its new **STRATEGIC PLAN** for the 2022-2026 Term of Council.

MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Township focused on this priority by:

- 1 Completing Phase 1 of the Arthur Wastewater Treatment Plant (2020).
- 2 South Water St. Sewage Pumping Station Design in Mount Forest.
- 3 Queen St E, Domville St, Isabella St, Georgina St, William St, Fergus St S.
- 4 Sidewalk projects including Eastview Dr, King St E, Durham St E, Princess St.
- 5 A strong rural and urban resurfacing (asphalt) program.
- 6 Strong bridge rehabilitation and replacement program.
- 7 A \$1.1 million investment in the Arthur and Area Community Centre investment for the replacement of its ice surface (2021).
- 8 The addition of back-up generator at the Mount Forest & District Sports Complex.
- 9 The full rehabilitation of two recreation playgrounds (Opti-MRS in Arthur, Campbell DeVore in Mount Forest).
- 10 The completion of Asset Management Plan (2021), Development Charges Study (2021), Water and Sewer Rates Study (2020), Water and Sewer Infrastructure Technical Update (2020) and Recreation Master Plan (2018).

Various Road and Sidewalk Improvements:



QUEEN ST. EAST, MOUNT FOREST

ALIGNMENT AND INTEGRATION

The Township focused on this priority by:

- 1 **Strengthening our local Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) and Chambers of Commerce.** Over the past few years Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) have been established with both the Arthur and Mount Forest Chamber of Commerce. A new BIA has been established in Arthur and a revitalized BIA in Mount Forest. This has resulted in a renewed focus on downtown revitalization with several exciting initiatives.
- 2 **DID YOU KNOW:** the Wellington North Community Improvement Program has been in place in WN since 2012? Over the last ten years, 150 applicants have been approved - supporting \$3.6 million in improvements (86% invested by applicants and 14% from grants). The Township is currently updating our CIP to consolidate a number of existing grants and to include a green energy grant. It is anticipated that this new CIP will be presented to Council in 2023.
- 3 Working with our partners at the County as well as the OPP to develop and implement a **Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan.**
- 4 Continuing to **adapt and implement changes in provincial legislation**, such as Development Charges Changes Act and many others – advocating for the Township's interests.



GET INVOLVED AND SHARE YOUR IDEAS.

Visit: www.wellington-north.com for more information.



Township of Wellington North



7490 Sideroad 7 W,
PO Box 125,
Kenilworth, Ontario N0G 2E0
1-866-848-3620

www.wellington-north.com

