



TOWNSHIP OF
**North
Kawartha**

Connecting Community,
Nature and Spirit

2023-2026 Strategic Economic Development Plan

Progress Report 2023





Development

Residential Development

Explore reorganizing our existing hamlet areas through the County Official Plan renewal to lay the foundation for new residential growth.

- Complete – This was done through the new County Official Plan project, final approval is pending from the Province

Prioritize the right mix of housing to meet our current and future needs to include a review of a range of housing including purpose built rentals, town-homes, multi-unit, single family homes, housing for seniors and those with accessibility needs

- In-progress – The Township has applied to the Federal Government’s Housing Accelerator Fund Program (HAF). The Township’s application focused on the missing middle (duplex’s, triplex’s, fourplex’s and low rise apartments), and purpose built rentals (Motion 23-251)

Complete a review to explore the possibility of phasing out “Seasonal Residential” Zoning and replace it with “Residential” zoning for all property on a Municipality or County maintained roadway

- On the planning horizon and will be evaluated when the Township reviews its Comprehensive Zoning By-laws

Residential Intensification

Develop a targeted communications plan to educate ratepayers on the Township’s secondary unit By-law to increase uptake

- In progress – This is included in the Townships integrated marketing and communications plan

Create density targets for existing Hamlet areas and any new development

- In-progress – The Township created density targets for Municipally owned lands that were included in the Townships HAF application (Motion 23-251)



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Development

Employment Lands

Complete a review of employment lands within the Township to determine additional employment lands that need to be added through the Official Plan renewal, focusing on long-term employment land(s) needs for the Municipality

- Complete – This was done through the new County Official Plan project, final approval is pending from the Province

M” – Mixed use Zoning

As best practice planning, introduce “M” mixed used zoning to the Comprehensive Zoning By-law combining Residential and specific Commercial uses for the same property

- In-progress – This was included in the Township’s HAF application, and will also be evaluated when the Township reviews its Comprehensive Zoning By-laws.

Master Plan

Consider create a Master Plan for the Hamlet of Aspley, including a downtown revitalization plan that focuses on improvement to the streetscape and public realm

- On the planning horizon

Innovation in Housing

Enact policies that promote new, innovate solutions in housing

- In progress – The Township amended it’s zoning by-laws to allow shipping containers to be used as competent parts in the construction of habitable dwellings
- The Township is actively reviewing requirements to allow for Tiny Homes in the Township. This was also included as an action item in the Townships HAF application (Motion 23-235)

Municipal Surplus Property List

Complete a review of the Municipal surplus property list and present recommendations to Council for conisation

- In progress – Council has provided direction to staff on two large parcels of land in Municipal ownership within Apsley to support the Townships HAF application (Motion 23-235).



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Infrastructure

Communal Servicing

Complete a case study that provides the framework to allow communal water and waste water systems to be used for new residential and commercial development. To include a review of whether establishing a Municipal Service Corporation is feasible for North Kawartha

- In-progress – Funding for this was included in the Township’s HAF application. (Motion 23-235).

VIA High Frequency Rail Proposal

Advocate to all levels of government for VIA’s HFR proposal to bring stops to the County and City of Peterborough

- On the planning horizon

Explore with VIA Rail the possibility of adding a limited service/seasonal stop at the East Side of Stoney Lake on the existing CP Blue Mountain Subdivision

- On the planning horizon

Internet and Cell Service

Work with EORN and Rogers on the implementation of the recently announced cell gap partnership to bring cell service to of all North Kawartha

- In-progress – The Township is working with EORN and Rogers on the rollout cell gap project. 3/5 new tower locations have been selected. Rogers has upgraded to 5G infrastructure on its existing towers.

Actively work with infrastructure Ontario and the private sector on delivering the “Ontario Connects” program to that aims to bring high speed internet to all households in the Province by the end of 2025

- In-progress – The Township is working with Bell (Universal Broadband Fund) and Rogers (Accelerated High Speed Internet Program) on the rollout of two Fibre internet projects for the Township. Rogers now offers a wireless to the home internet project in many parts of the Township.



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Infrastructure

Transit

Complete a needs assessment to determine the viability of ride sharing as a form of public transit, and determine available sources of funding

- On the planning horizon

Explore partnership opportunities with Metrolinx, and neighboring municipalities that would bring seasonal GO bus services to North Kawartha

- On the planning horizon

Off Road Vehicles (ORV) on County Roads

Advocate to the County and work with our ratepayers to allow access to ORV on County Roads within the Township

- Complete – This was approved by the County and ORV access is now legal on select County roads within the Township of North Kawartha.



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Labour

Partnership with Fleming College

Explore partnership opportunities with Fleming College to support local businesses with apprenticeship placements to help fill gaps in the labour market.

- On the planning horizon

Partnership with Trent University

Review partnership opportunities with Trent University and their community research based programs to focus on student placement (co-op) with Township businesses, as well as research project geared towards environmental stewardship and protection

- On the planning horizon

Supporting Entrepreneurship

Continue to partner with Peterborough and the Kawarthas Economic Development (PKED) to promote, and encourage the use of their innovative programs and expertise to foster newly formed, and start-up businesses in the Township

- In progress – The Township actively works with PKED on supporting their starter company plus program. The Township had two new businesses complete the program and win micro grants to support their new start ups.

Home Based Businesses

Explore changes to the Township's Comprehensive By-laws to expand eligibility for more home based businesses

- On the planning horizon and will be evaluated when the Township reviews its Comprehensive Zoning By-laws

Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot

Monitor results of the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot being run by IRCC with partners to determine if the program would be a good fit for North Kawartha should it continue

- In progress – We continue to monitor updates from the Federal Government on the program



Tourism

Township Branding

Draft an RFP to find a qualified vendor who can provide the full suite branding and communication services to the Township before the end of 2021 to utilize the Municipal Modernisation Grant provided to the Township

- In progress – The first phase of the Township’s new brand has rolled out and staff are currently working on the second phase (Motion 23-106)

By-law to regulate Short Term Rental (STR)

Draft a By-law to regulate Short Term Rentals that operate in the Township

- In progress – Council has established a committee of Council to study STR’s in North Kawartha. Council has approved the terms of reference for the STR committee (Motion 23-213)

Visitor Accommodation Tax (VAT)

Develop a plan to consider implementing the 4% VAT only on STR’s in the Township

- In progress – As part of the terms of reference for the STR committee, the committee will evaluate the VAT (Motion 23-213)

Integrated Marketing & Communications Plan

Create a yearly integrated marketing and communications plan to promote the region as a four season destination to live, work, play and invest

- In-progress – The Integrated marketing and communications plan will rollout January 2024

Signature Yearly Event

Work with local events, festivals, and businesses to create a yearly, signature event for the Township

- In progress – The Township supports several annual community events including Creekside Music Festival, the Apsley Studio Tour, and the Jack Lake Film Festival
- The Township also supports several community groups including The Lions Club, and Community Care



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Economic Diversification

Investment Strategy

Prepare an investment strategy for the Township with a focus on securing new private investment to bring in residential and commercial development for the Township

- On the planning horizon

Community Engagement

Draft a community engagement plan to better connect with our seasonal residents that own their own business, operate in professional services or the trades to encourage them to practice in North Kawartha

- On the planning horizon

Business Hub

Establish a shared work space/business hub in the Township that addresses barriers faced by local businesses, and residents working from home

- Complete – The business hub is operational and was opened to the public for use in June 2023



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Foundational Piece

Service Delivery Review

Complete a service delivery review of the services provided by the lower and upper tier municipality to find efficiencies, cost savings, and improve outcomes for ratepayers

- On the planning horizon

Review of Comprehensive Zoning By-law

Modernize, and update the Comprehensive Zoning By-laws

- In progress – The Township has updated its Special Event by-law to streamline the approval process. (Motion 23-130).
- The Township updated its by-laws to declare the entire Township a tourist destination under the retail business holidays act. (Motion 23-169).

Red tape reduction and streamline approval processes

Explore the possibility to entering into a service level agreement with the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority and other agencies to streamline, and speed up the development approval process

- On the planning horizon

Position the Township as a Trusted Business Partner

Strong focus on building and maintaining corporate reputation as a trusted business partner within the private sector

- In progress