



## CAO Report – February 11, 2025

I would like to start off with a big thanks to our hard-working public works crews who dealt quickly with a water line break on the weekend in Garnet Valley which affected a large number of Garnet Valley Residents and also many residing at Hunters Hill as well. Within just a few hours the leak was located and repaired, with services restored more quickly than anticipated. In addition to posting on Facebook we also took advantage of our VoyentAlert! Notification system to provide a custom notification to those directly affected. I am pleased to report that this involved notification of 339 residents who had signed up for this service. In fact, more than 2500 have signed up across the community and that number grows each month!

On the theme of water breaks, I would like to thank Council for prioritizing asset management and infrastructure renewal. It used to be a routine event to respond to water breaks at Canyon View Road and Dale Meadows Road but since the watermain replacements in those locations we have not had a single event. Not only does this avoid the public health risk of water contamination, and of course the nuisance and inconvenience to residents affected by no water service, but it also avoids very significant costs. When a water break happens, it seems to always occur on a weekend or after hours requiring the mobilization of people and equipment off-shift with the associated overtime expenses or expenses to call in special assistance from engineers or other firms. Investment in this infrastructure saves time and money and ensures that for years to come our water systems will perform reliably for citizens.

Speaking of infrastructure renewal, a couple of Alternative Approval Processes are underway right now for the Wharton Street project and the Victoria Road project. While much of these projects are supported by savings and reserves, grants and other funds, the portion that is borrowed requires public assent. The process, which is established under provincial legislation, requires that residents opposed to the borrowing need to submit an elector response form by Tuesday February 25. Those in support of the projects and the associated borrowing do not need to take any action. More details are available on our website, and we have also been doing regular Facebook posts. If the Wharton Street project proceeds, we would like to get it done by Remembrance Day to ensure the cenotaph is moved into its new prominent location in the centre of the park. So, we will be requesting proposals for pricing in the next week or so in parallel with the AAP process. However, the RFP will be clear to all bidders that no work on the project will proceed unless community support is provided. If public assent is not provided, we will not proceed with the project currently envisioned.

Finally, just confirmation that spring is in the air already as we are now beginning the recruitment process for our summer students. Positions will support the maintenance of municipal streets, lanes, boulevards, cemeteries, sidewalks, drainage systems, as well as taking care of our green spaces, gardens, playing fields, parks, washroom facilities, garbage collection, and more.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Statt, Chief Administrative Officer