

## Official Plan Update Issue Sheet Series

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## Purpose of Issue Sheet Series

To inform the public about major aspects of the Township's Official Plan, how the existing Official Plan addresses the issue, and how the issue is affected by Provincial Planning Policies.

## Who to Contact to Comment or Learn More?

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## Issue 1: What is an Official Plan Update?

### What Is an Official Plan?

- An Official Plan describes a Municipal Council's policies on how land in the community should be used. It is prepared with input from residents, Provincial Ministries, and other interested community groups and helps to ensure that future planning and development will meet the specific needs of the community.
- The Official Plan must conform to all Provincial planning guidelines and governs all planning decisions in the Municipality.

### Official Plan Update

- The Ontario Planning Act requires that all municipal Official Plans be reviewed and updated every five years. The Township's present Official Plan was approved in April, 2004.
- The Plan must be brought into conformity with any changes to Provincial Plans and the Provincial Policy Statement on planning. The Township may also choose to propose other changes that it deems to be appropriate to the Plan during this process.
- The Municipal Council is obligated to hold at least one official public meeting and one public open house. This is the minimum required and municipal Councils are free to hold additional meetings with the public at their discretion.
- Any changes adopted by Council will be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing who will review the document for conformity with Provincial Plans and may approve it as submitted or approve it with amendments.

### How Does the Official Plan Affect Property Owners, Residents, and Businesses?

- The Official Plan contains policies which are intended to guide public and private interests in such a way as to ensure the best form of development under the most desirable conditions.
- The Official Plan sets out guidelines for the preparation of municipal regulations (eg. Zoning Bylaw) which implement the Plan, establishes policies to govern both the division and development of land, and finally, identifies public actions which need to be taken to support private development
- Schedules (maps) are included in the Plan which designate what types of restrictions are in place and what types of development are permitted to occur on each property in the Township.

### Public Consultation

- Council has endorsed a goal of holding public open houses on the Official Plan and general planning issues throughout the late spring and summer of 2009
- A public meeting is intended to be held in late August 2009 to fulfill the Planning Act requirement.
- Township planning staff are available to make presentations and answer questions about the Official Plan at stakeholder meetings (eg. Lake Associations, Service Clubs, etc)
- All drafts, supporting studies, and a schedule of meetings will be posted at [www.twprideaulakes.on.ca](http://www.twprideaulakes.on.ca)