

## **AMO Speaking Notes for Regular Council**

### **Introduction**

- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario annual conference (AMO 2024) is the premier event for Ontario's municipal sector, attracting over 2,500 delegates from Ontario's 444 municipalities.
- In addition to a comprehensive roster of informational presentations and workshops, the AMO conference offers an excellent opportunity for municipal leaders to meet face-to-face with provincial ministers and advocate for issues critical to their local communities.
- For the first time in Cobourg's history, Council presented delegations at AMO 2024. Delegation requests were focused on Cobourg's current challenges, asset management planning and Council's long-term goals for our community.
- Deputy Mayor Beatty, along with Councillor Darling and Councillor Barber, CAO Tracey Vaughan, and Manager, Office of the CAO Chris Challenger with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra, the Minister of Sport, Neil Lumsden and the Minister of Infrastructure, Kinga Surma.
- Council was given 15 minutes with each Cabinet Minister to provide a brief introduction to our community, the work that is being done to achieve our strategic pillars and to make a pitch for additional support.
- Below are some of the highlights of our discussions with the respective Ministers

### **Ministry of Infrastructure**

- First and foremost, we would like to express our sincere thanks to Infrastructure Ontario for the \$25 million Housing-Enabling Water Systems grant. This funding is instrumental in enabling us to meet the needs of our growing population and supporting the province's goal of building 1.5 million homes by 2031.
- We want to thank Premier Doug Ford, and Minister Piccinni for their visit to Cobourg on Monday to make this historic funding announcement. These AMO delegations highlight the importance of Cobourg being
- We highlighted to the Province the excellent work going on in Cobourg with respect to residential construction
- In 2023, construction began on 398 new residential units, resulting in a 4.1% increase in our housing stock. Cobourg has long term plans to sustain this momentum, with the development of the Cobourg East community.

- Cobourg East will see when fully built out, could see upwards of 9,000-10,000 units when fully built out. Cobourg is currently surpassing growth targets set for larger municipalities.
- For example, Cobourg is on track to build more homes than the City of Peterborough, which is four times our size. Our housing growth directly supports local economic development and meets the demand for more housing options in our region.
- Below are some of the projects we spoke with Minister Surma about

**King Street West Reconstruction:** Involves replacing deteriorating watermain, sanitary and storm sewers, road surfacing, and bridge rehabilitation. Some infrastructure dates as far back as the 1930's, and urgently needs repair. Total cost: \$4.7 million Request: \$4.475 million from Infrastructure Ontario.

**King Street West Culvert & William Street Bridge Rehabilitation:** Rehabilitating the William Street bridge, and replacing the king street west culvert providing the only access to 106 homes. This project includes a multi use pathway for pedestrians and additional snow storage Total cost: \$4.4 million. Request: \$2.645 million due to inflationary costs.

**Stormwater Management Infrastructure Subsidy:** In 2023, the Town of Cobourg implemented a 10 year, 1.6M annual asset management plan. Increased user fees have been challenging for the town's small population, so financial support from the Province is needed to prevent critical infrastructure failure and ensure long-term stability.

**Brookside Property Sanitary Servicing Study:** The Town of Cobourg recommends that IO consider conducting a sanitary flow study for the former Brookside Youth Detention Centre site. A sanitary flow study would be beneficial to Infrastructure Ontario to demonstrate sanitary capacity to a prospective buyer.

### **Delegation to Minister of Sport**

In their meeting with Minister Lumsden, Council requested financial support for capital budget items that are of great significance to our community.

- **Centennial Pool:** Centennial pool continues to be a primary asset in our community. The pool requires major renovations at an estimated cost of \$3.6 million. The Town of Cobourg has identified \$1.6 million in the 2025 budget and requested \$2 million from the Ministry of Sport.
- **Pickleball Courts:** Council continues to receive requests from the community for additional Pickleball facilities. During the 2022 budget deliberations, Council approved the development of eight new outdoor pickleball courts. The total estimated cost of this project is \$600,000. Council has committed \$125,000 in Capital funding, however, has proclaimed the remaining funds must come from

fundraising or community grants. During their delegation to Minister Lumsden, Council requested \$475,000 from the Ministry of Sport.

- **Harbour:** Cobourg's harbour reconstruction project consists of several sub-developments to rehabilitate infrastructure and preserve the recreational enjoyment of this area. The Town of Cobourg has committed \$6.7 million in capital for the rehabilitation of the harbour. In their meeting with Minister Lumsden, Council requested \$450,000 for expanded training and small-craft storage areas as well as \$2.5 million to renew and expand the marina, sailing and canoe facilities.
- We want to thank Minister Lumsden for some of the direct feedback he gave us on Cobourg's recreation projects. This direct feedback will be used to craft Cobourg's grant application to the Ministry of Sports to the \$200M Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) (Will apply for funding for Pickle Ball Courts).

### **Delegation to Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

- **Housing and Homelessness Challenges:** As the hub for social services in Northumberland County, Cobourg is facing an increasing demand on local resources, such as fire, police, and by-law enforcement. Between September 2023 and June 2024, these unbudgeted costs amounted to \$223,993, excluding management and legal costs related to the homeless encampment located on the Brookside Property. We continue to stress to the Province that alternative funding models are needed to ensure lower tier Municipalities are fairly compensated for the costs they incur.
- **Innovative Approaches:** Cobourg has been proactive in developing solutions to these challenges. For example, our Emergency Care Establishment By-law (ECE), introduced in 2024, addresses community safety concerns and improves protections for those using emergency care facilities. The ECE by-law ensures the appropriate management of temporary shelters within the Town of Cobourg, sets minimum care standards for shelter users, and provides protections for surrounding residents. Additionally, the Parks By-law bans camping in municipal parks to maintain public safety and proper park usage.
- **Funding and Collaboration:** We request that the Province consider providing financial assistance to lower-tier municipalities in recognition of the impact of social services on lower tier municipalities. Additionally, we encourage the Province to explore alternative models for providing shelter support to better address the complex needs of our communities through revenue sharing between local Municipalities and established service managers

### **Education & Training Overview**

- The honorable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities presented on housing challenges faced by Municipalities in Ontario
- We attended a panel discussion hosted by TVO's Steve Pakin on what Municipalities can do to address Housing supply and affordability challenges in their communities
- We attended a panel discussion hosted by TVO's Steve Pakin on the challenges Municipalities face regarding maintaining, financing, and building infrastructure in Ontario
- We attended the Ministers' Forum where Premier Ford's cabinet took questions from elected Municipal Officials on a range of issues and challenges facing Ontario Municipalities