

Summary of Dufferin Council Meeting, May 22, 2025

Dufferin County Council consists of 15 members, typically the mayor and deputy mayor representing each of the 8 municipalities in Dufferin. Council is responsible for overseeing the governance, policies, and procedures impacting local residents and businesses. This is the first time we have covered the council meeting. There were a number of items that were of particular interest to MC2. This is a brief summary, for more detailed notes visit the MC2 website.

1.

A report from Rajbir Sian, Director of Community Development and Tourism, on the potential impact, at the county level, of Bill 5 - Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, was received.

A number of concerns are identified in various sections of the act. For example:

The potential reduction in species protection due to the removal of mandatory regulations. The report states that the County could expect notable impact related to Indigenous involvement in development applications in response to the to reduced protections for species at risk in the amended Act.

Concerns about the preservation of archaeological resources due to reduced assessment requirements. The County emphasizes the importance of stakeholder involvement in archaeological assessments, especially in the case of Indigenous stakeholders who have treaty rights to lands in Dufferin County.

Changes that allow for the establishment of Special Economic Zones that effectively eliminate the local context that is critical in the planning and decision-making process. The County advocates for a holistic review of projects rather than a narrow focus.

Later in the meeting resolutions from the Towns of Mono, Orangeville and Shelburne to oppose elements of Bill 5 were received.

2.

A report from Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer on the Government Relations Framework and Strategy and Action Plan for 2025-2026 was received and approved. The report identifies three key priorities:

Homeless Prevention: Ensuring access to housing and healthcare for vulnerable residents.

Municipal Funding Model: Addressing infrastructure needs to support growth and economic development.

Road Safety: Enhancing road safety while facilitating efficient movement of goods and people.

Strategies for building relationships with other levels of government are discussed and two specific delegation requests for AMO (Associated Municipalities of Ontario) 2025 were recommended and approved:

- Request a meeting with the Minister of Municipal Affairs to discuss homeless prevention and supportive housing.
- Request a meeting with the Minister of Transportation to discuss Highway 10 improvements.

3.

An amendment to the Malancthon Official Plan to allow an existing 65.9 hectare agricultural parcel to be severed to create 28.3 and 37.6 hectare lots was not approved. The official plan requires a minimum of 40 hectares for agricultural designation. The proposed amendment was opposed by the Dufferin Federation of Agriculture on the grounds that the change could, among other concerns, result in a lot size inefficient to farm and the future potential for MDS *[minimum distance separation]* impacts if either parcel should ever wish to have livestock.