

### Hello and a Most Happy New Year to All of You!

We have been hearing from our members about the new approach to waste collection in Dufferin County. New containers will be provided to all residences, by the beginning of March, to collect a wide range of recyclable materials. The new system, put in place by the Provincial Government, will be funded by the companies which create the packaging that make up a large part of the waste materials used in our homes and businesses. "Circular Materials", a producer responsibility organization (PRO), has assumed control of recycling operations in Dufferin County. While the general reaction to the recycling concepts espoused in the new system is positive, the tools for this effort have raised significant concerns.

The receptacles that will be provided are large, coming in two sizes, which could be described as big and very big. They are "wheeled" to assist in handling and developed, it would seem, for more urban environments, with short driveways and paved surfaces. The two large sizes make managing them on a long driveway and on non-paved surfaces challenging. And both sizes will be difficult to fit into cars, which under the current blue box system is how many citizens moved waste to their pick-up locations beside the road. Many of our citizens will not be able to move these containers, and the response we are getting in some cases is "I'll just leave the container by the road and carry smaller containers out to the big box." In the material presented there is the note that if health reasons make it impossible for citizens to manage these containers, the company will arrange pickups from a convenient place, although to be provided with this service a doctor's note would be required saying why the help is needed.

As the new system is being implemented a couple of thoughts come to mind. First, the Provincial Government states that this change will remove the waste disposal function and cost from local governments, switching it to product manufacturers. And it appears that the local governments have had little say in the design or implementation of the new system and they may be pleased to have this cost coming off their books. But, at the same time, one might assume that those manufacturers, who are taking over this function, will reflect this cost in the charge for their products. Second, when a customer orders their new waste container, and if they decide that another size would work better for them, it is clear in the publicity that no change can be made without a lengthy period of use first. Third, some past practices, like bundling cardboard, can only work if the bundle fits in the bin selected. One comment from a citizen was that "if I can't fit it, I'll just burn it." And finally, given that this system aims for a broader range of product types to be recycled, one might ask what will happen to the blue boxes currently in use. Will they fit for disposal in the new containers?

Dufferin County under has a FAQ section on its website under Waste Services which might provide answers to questions like these and others that residents may have.

Overall, this may well be a better way to do waste disposal, particularly as there is allowance for a broader range of material that can be recycled, but the system might have been better designed if there had been more transparency in its development, if it better fit our rural environment, and if there is room for significant change and improvement as the new system evolves.

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### Recycling Action in Ontario!



**Circular Materials** is a national not-for-profit producer responsibility organization, founded and funded by businesses that produce packaging and paper waste. CM oversees the collecting, sorting and baling parts of the program. It represents the evolution to a more circular economy where materials are collected from the community, recycled and returned to producers as recycled content to be used in new products and packaging.

All of Ontario is now able to operate the same way since Circular Materials runs all the blue box programs across the province with an expanded material list. Added to the current list of items that can be recycled now are:

- Hot and cold beverage cups
- Black plastic containers
- Frozen juice containers
- Ice cream tubs
- Deodorant containers
- Toothpaste tubes

Mostly everything you might want to know about the new recycling system and all the material that can be recycled in Dufferin County and Ontario can be found at a number of websites. Try these!

<https://www.circularmaterial.ca>

[www.dufferincounty.ca/wasteservices](http://www.dufferincounty.ca/wasteservices)

[www.ontario.ca/recycling](http://www.ontario.ca/recycling)

## Mulmur Council



Mulmur 2026 Budget Public Meeting (Dec 3, 2025) – Treasurer Heather Boston presented Draft #2 of the Township’s 2026 Budget highlighting the changes between the first and second draft, community investments and capital projects. The budget proposes an increase of 4.91% to the tax levy, or a 3.35% increase to the tax rate. This would equate to an increase of \$19.51 per \$100,000 of assessment. The Council approved the 2026 operating and capital budgets as presented.

## Mono Council



Council Meeting December 9 2025 – Council received the 2026 final budget.

The budget on the agenda reflected a decrease in the proposed tax rate increase from 15% to 8.9%. However, Treasurer Les Halucha reported that the OPP contract added an additional \$34,000 to the budget, changing the tax rate increase from 8.9% to 9.26%. Council discussed whether it should remove the \$34,000 from the reserve contributions to Purple Hill Park or remove the entire reserve contribution of \$96,000 for that park to further reduce the tax rate. Council discussed how some of the Purple Hill community has expressed concern over the proposed playground replacement.

Council passed the budget removing the Purple Hill Park playground reserve contribution and setting the tax rate increase to 8.37%.

## Dufferin County Council



Jan 8, 2026 – Council approved changes that reduced the levy requirement by \$1.574 million, lowering the proposed levy increase to 3.73%, down from 6.8%. In addition to program and administration savings, this included using \$1.1 million in reserves (2.19% of the reduction) and deferring staff pay adjustments (a 0.43% levy impact). The 3.73% increase is not yet the final number. A report on current reserve levels will be presented at the next meeting. This will help determine how much reserve funding the Council will decide to use.

**\*\*\* More detailed Council meeting information is available on the websites of the Town, Township and County \*\*\***

## **Mono’s Winterfest:** **Sunday February 1st** **12:00-4:00**

(MC)2’s Environment/Land Use/Outreach Committee (ELO) will be participating in this annual fun-filled family event at the Mono Center Community Hall. We’ll have a table, along with other community groups, to show people what we’re all about and information about some issues that have been keeping us busy. We’re also making a nice donation to the ever-popular Snowflake Raffle! Hope to see some of you there!

## **Ontario Nature**

**“We are there when nature needs us most!”**

Ontario Nature is a charity that has been protecting wild species & wild spaces through education, conservation & public engagement since 1931.

Dive into the winter 2025 issue of ON Nature, Ontario Nature’s award-winning quarterly magazine, for breaking environmental news, powerful stories & stunning photography. The issue is also free to read online.

Visit [www.ontarionature.org](http://www.ontarionature.org)



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