

MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE AND MUNICIPAL SERVICE CORPORATIONS

Council Presentation

**The Town of the Blue
Mountains**

April 20, 2026

Don May RPP (Lifetime)

My name is Don May and I have been a professional planner for over 50 years. I am appearing before you as one of the newest residents in The Town of The Blue Mountains

I provided my CV with my delegation request and felt compelled to provide a brief overview of Regional Governments and Municipal Service Corporations in Ontario and more specifically what may be happening next door in Simcoe County

I am more of a governance person than a numbers person. Governance deals with municipal structure and organization.

Municipal restructuring in Ontario has occurred over the last 50 years primarily to provide comprehensive infrastructure and social services on a more regional basis.

In the late 1990's, the Province reduced the number of municipalities from 850 to 440.

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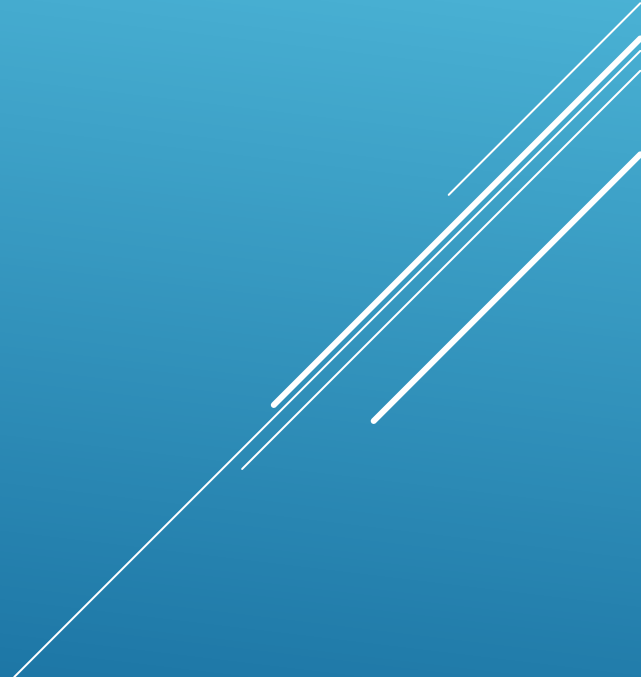
In 1973 when I graduated from Planning School, the Province created 11 Regions to join Metropolitan Toronto (1954). The main difference between a Region and a County is that the major cities were separated from the County municipality whereas Regions included the major cities within the County.

Different from Counties, Regions focused on providing trunk water and wastewater services.

Over time four of the Regions evolved into single tier cities – Toronto Hamilton Sudbury and Ottawa.



Although municipal restructuring has been an evolution
– there are periods of more rapid change and I believe
we are in one of those periods now.



Over the last few years, the Province has begun to review the remaining two-tier regions for necessary adjustments.

Included in that study the Province identified Simcoe County for review given Simcoe was fast becoming part of the GTA. Infrastructure is needed to meet the growing demands in Simcoe to achieve the Provincial affordable housing targets and the natural growth occurring north of Toronto.

An alternative to changing a County to a Region providing major trunk services is to create a Municipal Service Corporation which provides trunk services to the individual municipalities.

What is a Municipal Service Corporation (MSC)?

Where there is more than one municipality involved in services and where the senior level does not provide trunk services – an MSC can fund trunk services based on long term debentures and user fees (rather than development charges)

In effect the major local municipal water and wastewater infrastructure can be uploaded to a Municipal Service Corporation.

TBM should be aware that The Province is considering a Municipal Service Corporation in Peel Region and in Simcoe County. Given that Grey County does not provide trunk services and given TBM has significant infrastructure shared with Collingwood - TBM should consider whether there will be the ability to be part of a Simcoe MSC.

There may be other options as a wholly owned MSC within TBM or other adjoining municipalities.

The services themselves should determine the boundaries of an MSC for a particular service such as water or wastewater.

I am aware that you have some major challenges regarding servicing and development charges.

I would recommend that you consider the possibilities provided by an MSC.

You should also follow any changes in Collingwood via a Simcoe MSC. In my opinion you should investigate whether your shared services could be part of a Simcoe MSC.

Thank You

Questions

