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Jun 17, 2024 · 42 tweets · [adamadonaldson/status/1802830347605786722](https://twitter.com/adamadonaldson/status/1802830347605786722)

Coming up at 6:30 pm, it's a town hall with the Ward 6 City Councillors Dominique O'Rourke and Ken Yet Chew. Stand by for updates!

SAVE THE DATE

Ward 6 Summer Town Hall
with Councillors Chew, O'Rourke and City Staff

Join us in-person on
Monday, June 17, 2024
from 6:30-8:00PM

**Guelph City Hall
Council Chambers**

Updates to include
Gordon Street Improvements
Ward 6 Capital Projects
State of Housing, Health and Wellness
and more (time permitting)

Email us for more info at
ken.chew@guelph.ca or dominique.orourke@guelph.ca

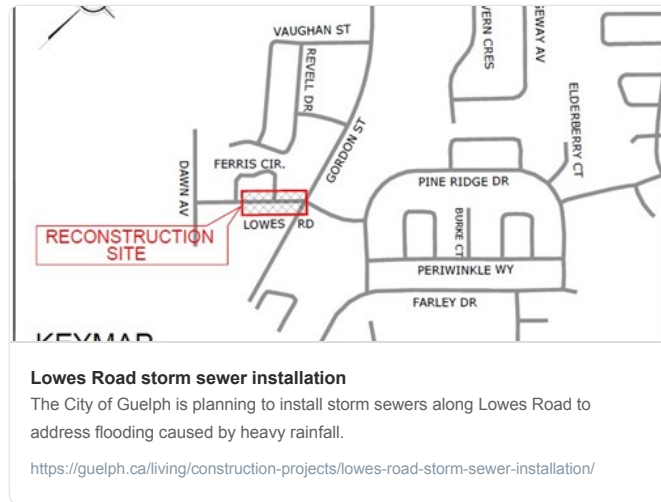
Fun fact: This my new ward.

Jackie Kay, Project Manager in Engineering and Transportation Services from the City is also here as we're going to address some capital in the south end, including traffic on Gordon.

Kay is here to talk about, among other things, the new addition of a centre lane between Kortright and Lowes, which are meant to address safety and build in infrastructure to support new development.

There's also the installation of a new sewer line at the intersection of Lowes and Gordon which is meant to address the flooding that happens in heavy rain. Phase one is design and that's going on right now. Tender is going out in Sept and construction should begin in Nov.

This first phase should be finished by the end of the year so as to help mitigate spring melt. Phase 2 begins next year which will see the replacement of a temp connection to Gordon replaced with a permanent one. Deets:



Question: Will there be an exploration of capacity of the stormwater pond off Edinburgh?
 Kay says it's going to be looked at "redesigned" if there's noticeable increase in capacity.
 O'Rourke notes that this is being done in response to issues, not party of long-term plan.

Kay says that they looked a lot of different options, and this is the best direction for it. Chew notes that this is temporary, the Stormwater Management Master Plan includes an additional facility in the area & the street will eventually have to be reworked with curbs, gutters.

Question about the possible effects on the Hanlon Creek. Chew says that the developer of the new building is including some advanced stormwater management measures, and protecting the creek is key plank in SWMMP.

Gordon Street widening: Not as far into this as Lowes Road improvements, but they've done Municipal Class EA, Transportation Master Plan, and Protected Cycling Network study. All feed into this work.

EA looked at road use for all types of users as well as traffic management. From there came the recommendation of a centre turning lane, plus multiuse paths for pedestrians and cyclists.

Next steps:

2024

- develop road cross sections and identify impacts
- design intersection, signal improvements

2025-2026

- utility relocation, land acquisition
- Construction (in conjunction with phase 2 of Lowes project).

Kay notes that they recently lowered the speed limit in this area of Gordon, and that may have an impact on some of the designs that they'll have to do. Hydro polls will need relocation, and they're hoping to avoid full closures on Gordon.

O'Rourke notes that the city received federal funding years ago to ensure cycling infrastructure from Wellington to Clair on Gordon, separated bike lanes. She notes that this is key to promote modal shift and ensure safety for cyclists.

There will be further community engagement on this in the fall or the early winter, so keep your eyes peeled.

O'Rourke notes that the long-term vision for Gordon is evolving, and everyone should keep eyes out. She reminds everyone that one of the visions in the TMP was possible transit-only lanes.

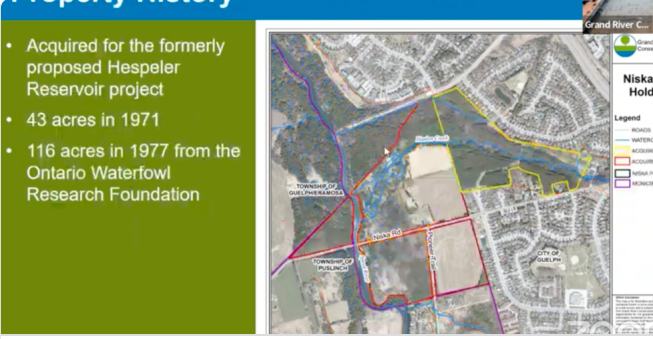
Question about the bike lanes there now, what happened? Kay says surface paving will be different: Two lanes north, two lanes south, a centre turning and multiuse path on the boulevard.

Question: Flooding on Lowes Road causing any issues aside inconvenience? O'Rourke says there's a current there when it floods, which is a big issue if it were to freeze. Temp. connection is cheaper than ongoing pumping as needed.

Other projects in Ward 6:

- Maltby road wildlife crossing
- Niska Bridge heritage feature (coming Aug-Sept)
- South End Community Centre (grand opening in fall '26 still on track)
- Niska Management Plan (coming to June GRCA meet).

Chew notes that the draft was brought to the board last year, and things have been delayed because of Indigenous engagement. Here's what happened at last September's GRCA meeting:



The slide features a green sidebar on the left with the following text:

- Acquired for the formerly proposed Hespeler Reservoir project
- 43 acres in 1971
- 116 acres in 1977 from the Ontario Waterfowl Research Foundation

The main part of the slide is a map titled 'Niska Li Holding' showing various land parcels. A legend on the right side of the map includes the following categories:

- ROADS
- WATERCOUR
- ACQUIRED IN
- NISKA TRACT
- RESERVING IN

Below the map, there is a text box with the following content:

RECAP: GRCA Members Hear About the Plans for the Old Waterfowl P...
September's meeting of the Grand River Conservation Authority's membership had a Guelph-centric agenda item. Deliberations began about the future of the old Kortright Waterfowl Park in ...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2023/09/22/recap-grca-members-hear-about-the-plans-for-the-...>

Also, the new high school at Arkell and Victoria. There hasn't been a new public high school in Guelph since Centennial and O'Rourke says that she's heard that it's still planned for 2026. She notes that they're still trying to get some options for Victoria South.

Question: As the city grows, will there be adequate water supply w/o a pipeline. O'Rourke says there's enough to get to 208k according to Master Plan, it's reviewed every 5 years, and the next step will be to look at surface treatment at Guelph Lake.

Chew notes that there are provincial growth targets given to us by the province, and staff are always trying to find best ways to time new development. That's where zoning comes in. The numbers can change, and there's a bit of idealism with housing targets.

O'Rourke notes that while population is up, water use is down thanks to conservation efforts and tech. We also need to keep in mind the wastewater capacity b/c cleaned water goes into the river and it's got to take the levels.

Question about greenspace, how will city meet quota of increasing green space with so much development and road widening? Chew says they're working on the private tree bylaw, and trying to take a grassroots approach with the stewards program for parks.

O'Rourke adds that if you look at the city as a whole, Guelph has a lot of protected greenspace in the ward (6). Also, 45% of Clair-Maltby will be protected. There's an aggressive tree canopy goal, it's in progress, and the city is encourage home and business owners to plant.

Question: When will there be public access to the Niska lands again? Chew encourages everyone to attend the board meeting, and maybe delegate.

I asked whether the Niska management plan is too terribly different from the draft plan that came to the GRCA board last fall. Chew says that they are some minor adjustments based on comments, but that's all.

One woman notes that there are people living rough in Preservation Park, and notes that a fairly large abandoned structure was torn down today by City staff. O'Rourke notes that there are a number of encampments around Guelph and are trying to get work with them respectfully.

This woman notes that the people living rough are destroying the underbrush with so much moving about, and the garbage being left behind attracts small animals, which attracts larger ones like coyotes. Understands the issues, still concerned.

Mayor Guthrie, who's here, says this is the number one issue discussed at OBC Mayors meeting last week. They're once again calling on the ONgov for action since these are technically healthcare issues:



Ontarios Big City Mayors Meet to Discuss Key Priorities Including Men...

June 17, 2024 CHATHAM-KENT, ON – Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) are calling on all levels of government to take immediate action on homelessness, mental health and addictions. At their meeting in C...

<https://www.ontariobigcitymayors.ca/ontarios-big-city-mayors-meet-to-discuss-key-prio...>

Guthrie says they need to address Minister of Health Jones, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Calandra, and the Premier with their concerns.

Compliments for the parks department and how they've been handling things. Another man says that the community's working to keep the trails clean, and he has compassion, but wonders about the risks and they're endangering lives. Guthrie notes four encampment fires in '23.

Same man notes that the city app where people can note where encampments are might actually put people in danger since it tells someone with bad intention where vulnerable people can be found. Guthrie notes that this is a good point.

The first woman says that she finds it ironic that she can get fined for not picking up after her dog, but people are using the forest like a bathroom and that's fine. Guthrie says that's not fine, but they have to take human rights approach.

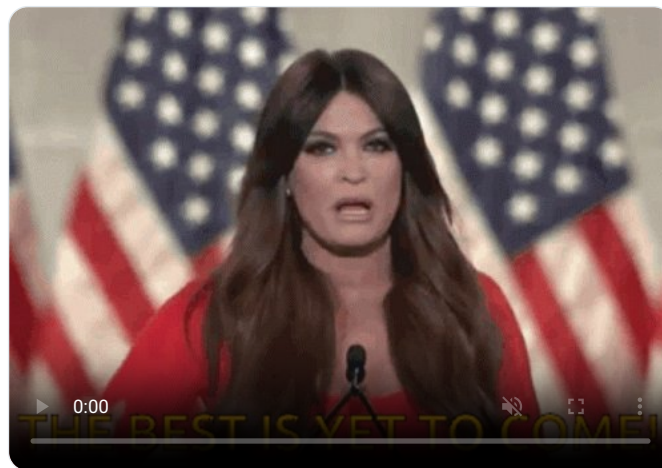
Guthrie says he's proud that the city has 108 units of supportive housing opening up right now, but the baseline issues have hit the county badly over the last four years. Stuff is happening, but we have a lot more to do.

O'Rourke notes that ODSP and OW payments are tragically low and people can't live on that income. Also, Ontario is the only province that leaves it to municipalities to fund social housing. It's multifaceted.

Chew wraps up noting that there's been a lot of defunding and downloading for years, and we're now seeing the result. We've been a prosperous country for a long time, and municipalities are not designed to deal with these issues directly. This also continent-wide.

Chew: It's easy to see where the gaps are, but this is a cultural issue that we need to all learn to deal with. There's still a grassroots spirit in Guelph and we're able to mobilise, playing ball with partners and getting engaged.

tl;dr



That's a wrap for this meeting!



@threadreaderapp unroll please!

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