



Town of Caledon Ward Boundary Review (WBR)

Final Report, June 2021
Dr. Robert Williams & Jack Ammendolia

Project Summary



The study began in mid 2020. Watson & Associates in association with Dr. Robert Williams was the consultant team selected to conduct this review on behalf of the Town.



Research/Information Gathering/Interviews with Council & Staff



Population Forecasting/Technical Analysis/Evaluation Of Existing Wards



Development Of Preliminary Ward Boundary Options



Public Engagement (i.e. surveys, information sessions, webpage)

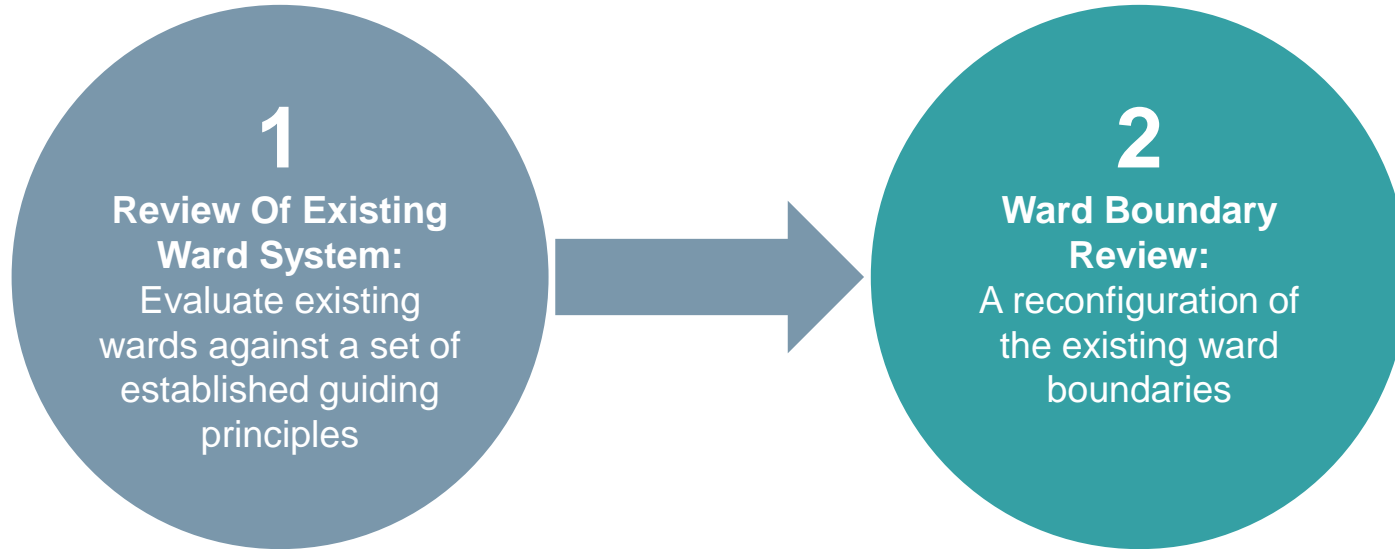


Reports (Discussion Paper, Interim Report, Final Report)



Council meeting

2 Phase Study



Public Engagement



A Comprehensive Public Engagement Strategy Was Employed

1. Surveys: over 650 responses

2. Social media engagement: Close to 8,000 people reached on Facebook; over 18,000 impressions on Twitter

3. Public consultation sessions: Virtual Public Information Sessions (some were live streamed and recordings of sessions available on website)

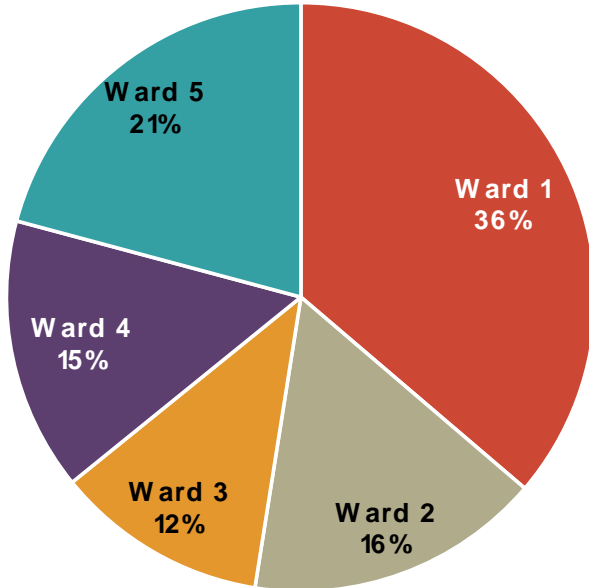
4. Interviews, ads, and newsletters.

Phase 1 Feedback

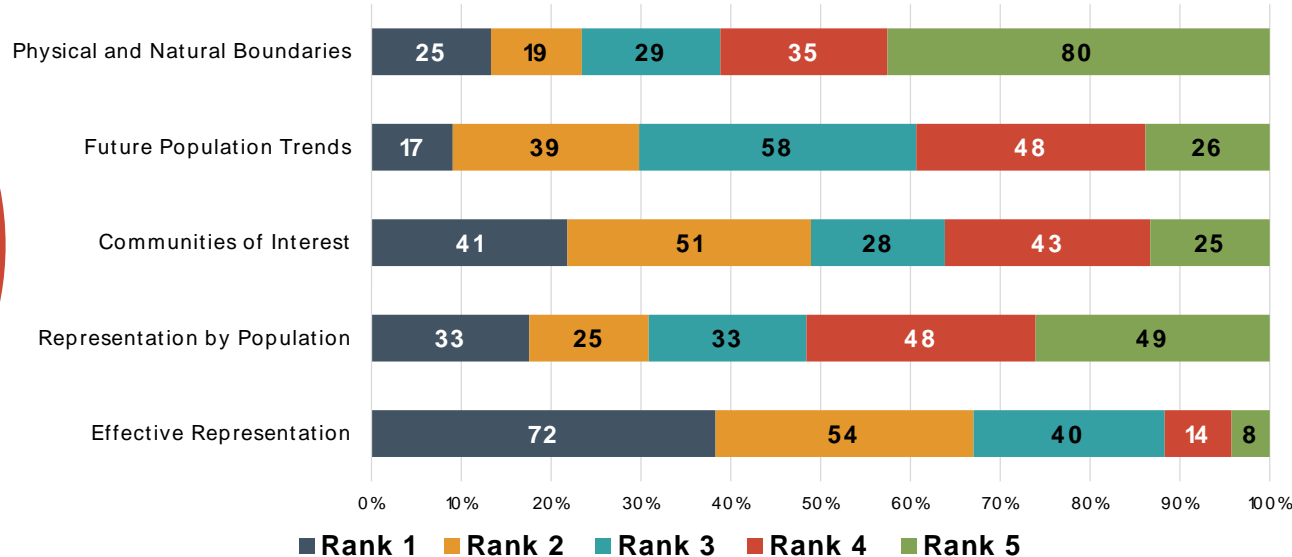


Effective Representation was ranked as highest priority, but people had different views on how it should be achieved. Most people prioritized communities of interest over the remaining principles.

What ward do you live in?



Please rank the principles that you believe should be given the greatest priority as we assess the current ward makeup in Caledon. (1 = highest priority, 5 = lowest priority)

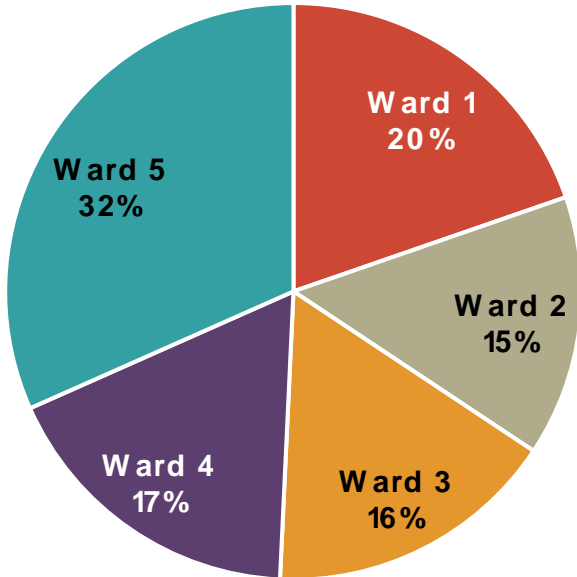


Phase 2 Feedback

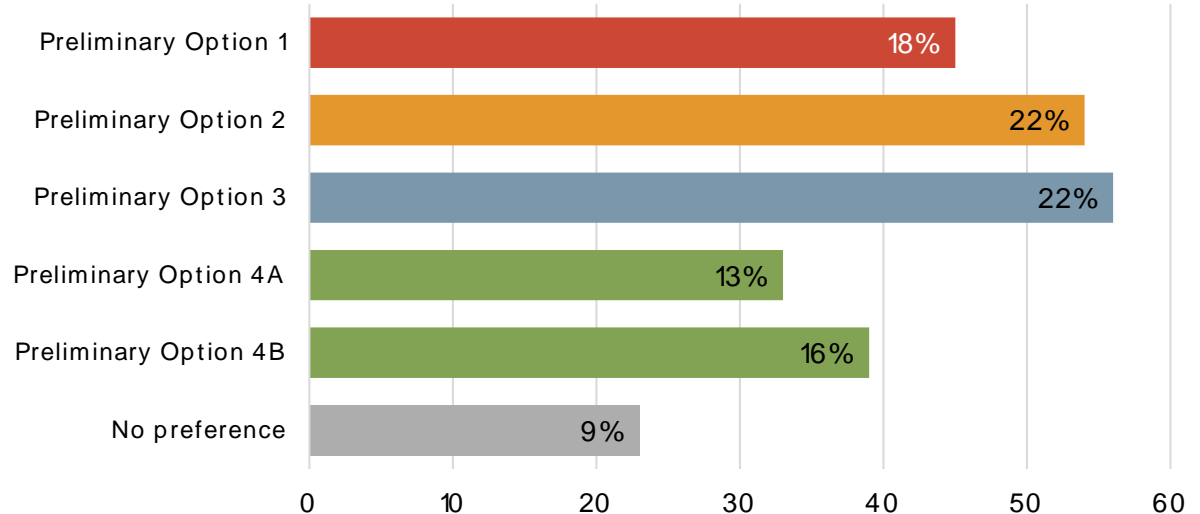


Preliminary Options 2 and 3 were the most preferred options, however, Preliminary Option 4 was the most preferred, at 29% if parts A & B are combined.

What ward do you live in?



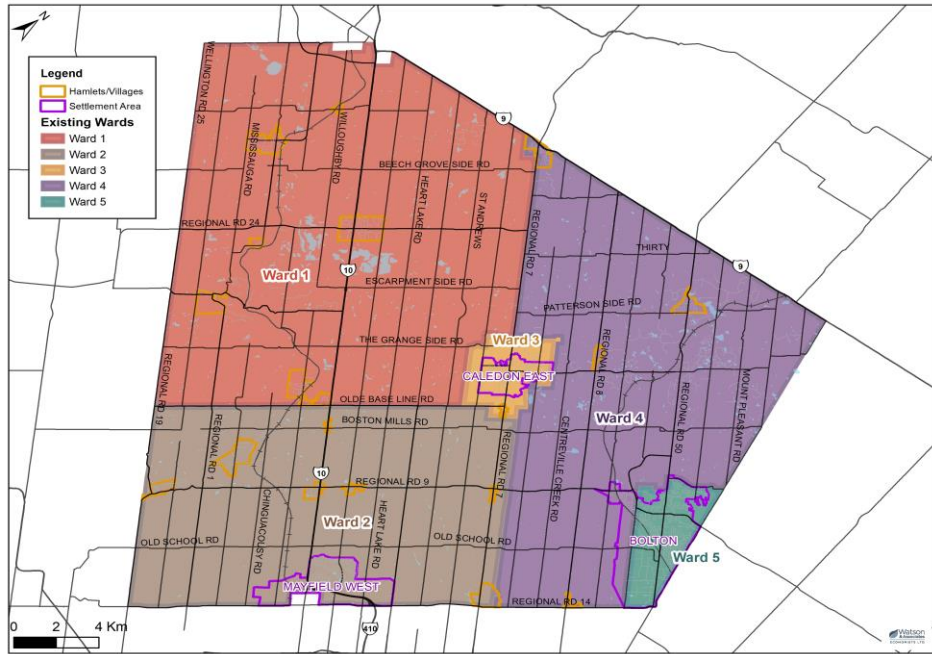
Which of the Preliminary Options for wards do you prefer?





Existing System

Council is comprised of 9 members; the Mayor (elected at large) and 4 Regional and 4 Local Councillors, elected in 5 wards (Wards 3 & 4 share). A recent Regional change is reducing the number of Regional councillors to 2.



Ward #	2021 Population	Variance	Optimal Range	2031 Population	Variance	Optimal Range
Existing Wards						
Ward 1	10,050	0.53	OR-	10,100	0.36	OR-
Ward 2	18,830	1.00	O	41,960	1.48	OR+
Ward 3/4	21,800	1.16	O+	35,670	1.26	OR+
Ward 5	24,790	1.31	OR+	25,340	0.90	O-
Total	75,460			113,060		
Average	18,870			28,270		

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

Note: Numbers have been rounded

Preliminary Options

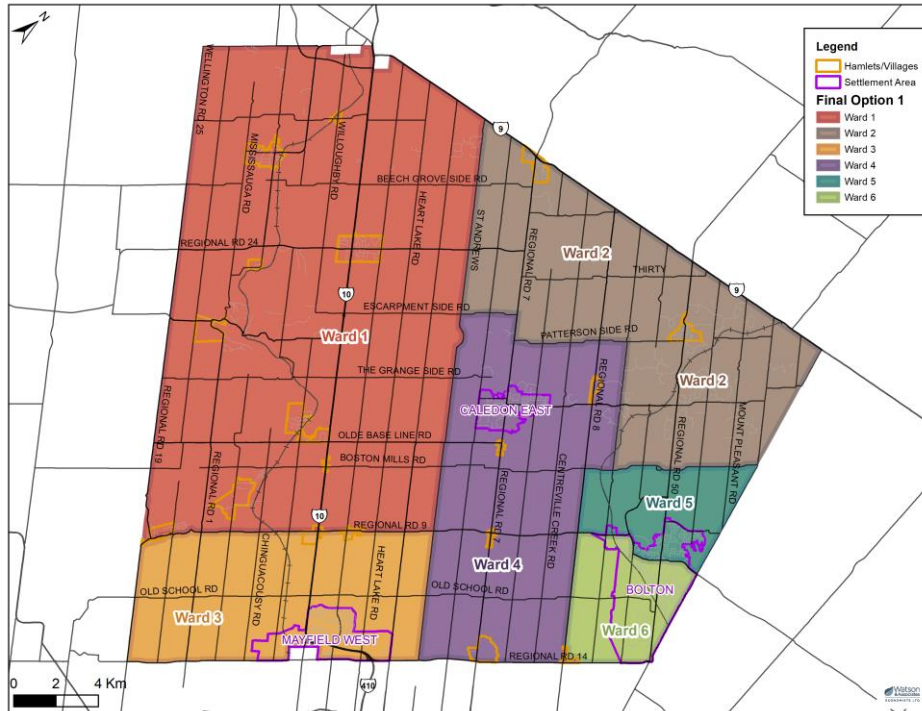


The consultant team developed a total of **5 preliminary ward boundary options** for consideration in the Interim Options Report.

The preliminary options considered a variety of factors such as;

- ✓ Guiding principles, Best Practices, Case Law
- ✓ Community feedback/engagement
 - A combined Option 4 was selected by approximately 29% of the residents of Caledon as most preferred.
 - Preliminary Option 3 was the second most preferred at 22.4%, followed by Preliminary Option 2 at 21.6%.

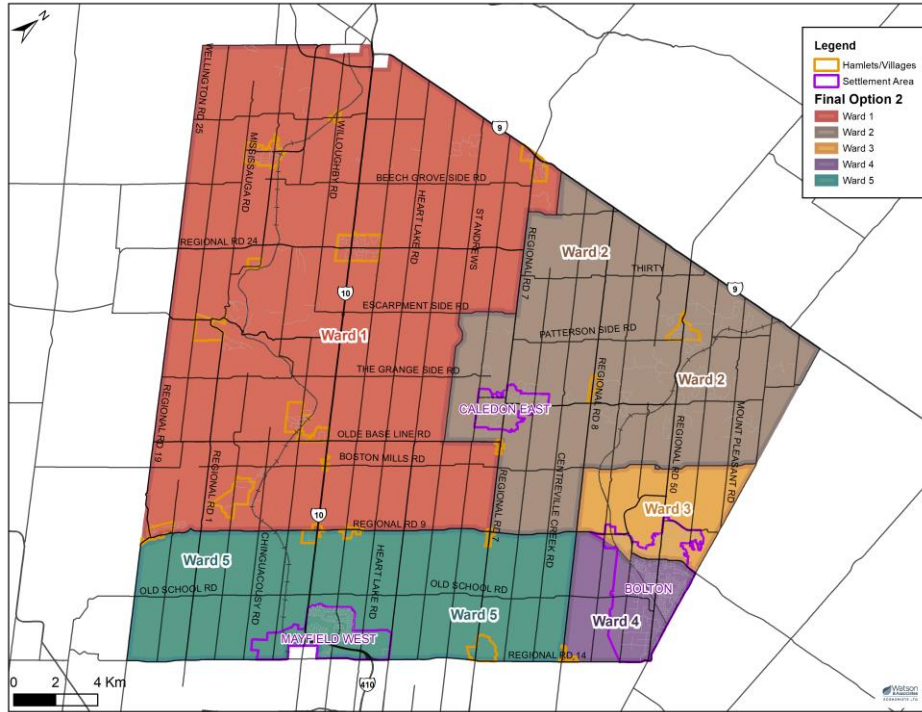
Recommended Option 1



OPTION 1 (Based on Preliminary Option 3)

Ward #	2021 Population	Variance	Optimal Range	2031 Population	Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	11,795	0.94	O-	11,605	0.62	OR-
Ward 2	8,350	0.66	OR-	8,920	0.47	OR-
Ward 3	15,335	1.22	O+	38,525	2.04	OR+
Ward 4	9,920	0.79	O-	12,750	0.68	OR-
Ward 5	10,600	0.84	O-	16,160	0.86	O-
Ward 6	19,450	1.55	OR+	25,100	1.33	OR+
Total	75,450			113,060		
Average	12,575			18,843		

Recommended Option 2



OPTION 2 (Based on Preliminary Options 4A & 4B)

Ward #	2021 Population	Variance	Optimal Range	2031 Population	Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	13,565	0.90	O-	13,485	0.60	OR-
Ward 2	14,920	0.99	O	18,220	0.81	O-
Ward 3	14,590	0.97	O	20,110	0.89	O-
Ward 4	15,460	1.02	O	21,150	0.94	O-
Ward 5	16,925	1.12	O+	40,095	1.77	OR+
Total	75,460			113,060		
Average	15,090			22,610		

Evaluation Summary Of Options



- Option 1: A 6-ward option with a focus on communities of interest. Bolton is now represented by 2 wards. There are some wards that are outside the acceptable population ranges, and this is exacerbated when accounting for future population growth.
- Option 2: A 5-ward option with a better balance of guiding principle recognition, especially regarding population parity. Future growth will impact that parity in one ward. This option also results in an even-numbered Council.

Election Of Regional Councillors



With 4 local and 4 regional councillors representing 4 wards (shared wards 3/4) the electoral system in Caledon fit together well. However, with the loss of 2 Regional councillors, the Municipality must figure out how to elect its remaining Regional councillors.

The Consultant Team prepared two Regional ward options for each of the recommended ward boundary options presented tonight (4 options). Council can consider these options or can also decide to elect the Regional councillors at-large.

Regional Wards Vs. At-Large



All Regional Councillors in Peel Region are elected in wards and always have been.

In other regions some are elected at-large (Waterloo, York, Niagara) and some are elected in wards like in Peel (Halton, Durham).

There are implications for both systems.



Implications Of An At-Large Regional System

- Town-wide focus.
- Electors might have greater choice and flexibility in elections (each voter can consider every candidate in the Council election).
- Electors can select the candidates they think will do the best job, rather than having to make a choice among candidates who happen to run in their ward.

- There would be no designated voices for particular neighbourhoods.
- At-large elections can lead to significant communities of interest and points of view being unrepresented (or under-represented).
- Candidates who appeal to areas where voter turnout is highest tend to be elected disproportionately.
- Large numbers of candidates on the ballot can be confusing for voters.
- Candidates must campaign across the entire municipality; this may make the cost of a campaign prohibitive (especially for newcomers).

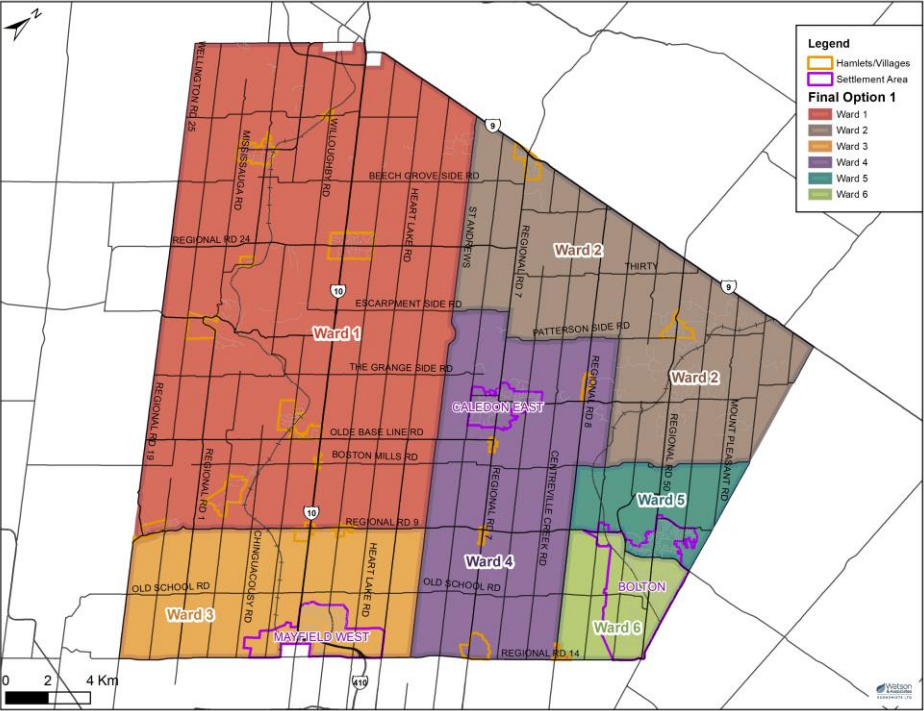


Implications Of A Ward Regional System

- Significant communities of interest are more likely to be represented.
- It is less likely that one particular point of view or sectional interest will dominate the Council
- Simplifies the election process for electors.

- Voters may have a restricted choice of candidates in elections for individual wards.
- Ward boundaries need to be adjusted from time to time because of demographic shifts.
- May discourage new candidates if an incumbent is generally popular or popular with a dominant community of interest.

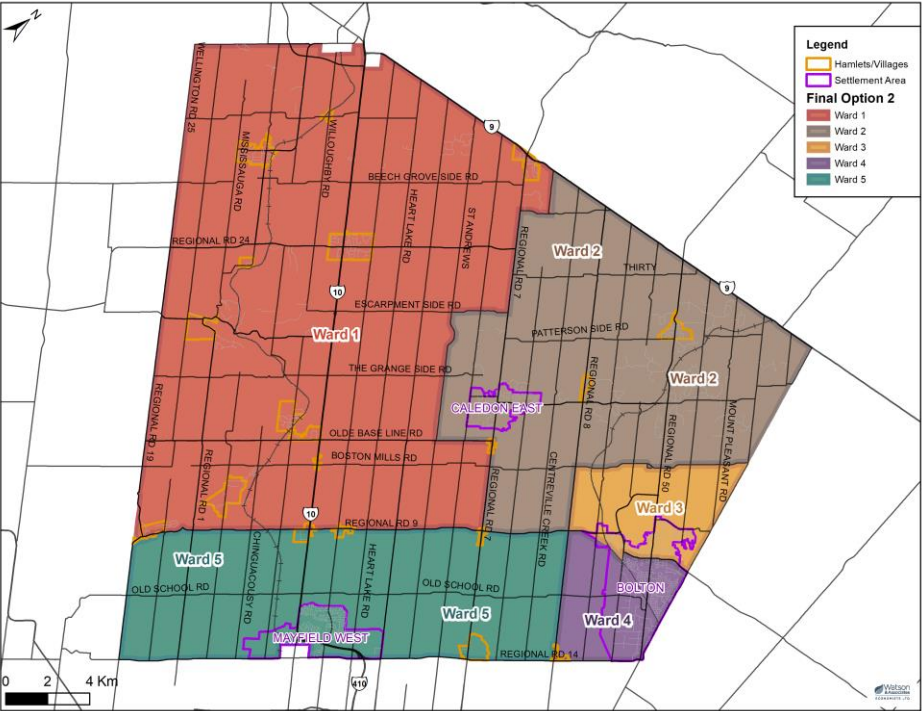
Regional Ward Configuration Recommendations For Option 1



REGIONAL WARDS OPTION #1						
Ward Number	2021 Population	Variance	Optimal Range	2031 Population	Variance	Optimal Range
Regional Ward 1: Wards 1, 3, 4	37,050	0.98	O	62,880	1.11	O+
Regional Ward 2: Wards 2, 5, 6	38,400	1.02	O	50,180	0.89	O-
Total	75,450			113,060		
Average	37,725			56,530		

REGIONAL WARDS OPTION #2						
Ward Number	2021 Population	Variance	Optimal Range	2031 Population	Variance	Optimal Range
Regional Ward 1: Wards 1, 2, 3	35,480	0.94	O-	59,050	1.04	O
Regional Ward 2: Wards 4, 5, 6	39,970	1.06	O+	54,010	0.96	O
	75,450			113,060		
	37,725			56,530		

Regional Ward Configuration Recommendations For Option 2



REGIONAL WARDS OPTION #1						
Ward Number	2021 Population	Variance	Optimal Range	2031 Population	Variance	Optimal Range
Regional Ward 1: Wards 1, 5	30,490	0.81	O-	53,580	0.95	O
Regional Ward 2: Wards 2, 3, 4	44,970	1.19	O+	59,480	1.05	O
Total	75,460			113,060		
Average	37,730			56,530		

REGIONAL WARDS OPTION #2						
Ward Number	2021 Population	Variance	Optimal Range	2031 Population	Variance	Optimal Range
Regional Ward 1: Wards 1, 2	28,485	0.75	O-	31,705	0.56	OR-
Regional Ward 2: Wards 3, 4, 5	46,975	1.25	O+	81,355	1.44	OR+
	75,460			113,060		
	37,730			56,530		



Ward Numbering

The Consultant Team understands that the labels attached to some of the proposed wards vary from the long-standing association of ward numbers with particular wards or parts of the Town.

The numbers assigned by the consulting team to the proposed wards were more or less arbitrary labels associated with the development of various scenarios in our reports.

If/when Council approves wards for the 2022 municipal election for the Town, the new boundaries will be incorporated in a by-law. The numbers attached to the Wards established in the by-law can be re-arranged, where possible, to maintain such historic linkages or to clarify the relationship between and among the wards.



Next Steps

- Council can
 - Choose one of the recommended options;
 - Ask for changes or revisions to a recommended option (or choose one of the other preliminary options);
 - Take no action
- Should Council choose to implement new ward boundaries, it would have to pass a bylaw.
- Any action respecting ward boundary reconfigurations (including taking no action, albeit with limitations) could be appealed to the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal. A new bylaw can be appealed up to 45 days after passage.