



# Haldimand County

## Ward Boundary Review

---

Introductory Council Workshop

May 28, 2024



**Jack Ammendolia**

Managing Partner  
Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

---

**Dr. Robert (Bob) Williams**

Public Affairs Consultant  
Municipal Electoral Systems Expert

# Agenda



**Introduction to the  
2024 Ward Boundary Review**



**Focus on  
Haldimand County**



**Next Steps and  
Discussion**

# Key Questions



**Consider  
these  
Questions**



- How does the present electoral arrangement for Haldimand County measure up?
- Do the current wards deliver **fair representation, conducive to good governance**?
- What are the goals of a Ward Boundary Review?
- What information does Council need to **make an informed decision**?

# 2024 Ward Boundary Review

## Why Undertake the Review?

Prepare Council to consider and discuss whether to maintain the existing ward boundaries or pursue an alternative arrangement.

## Objectives of the Review

### Fair Representation

Reviewing electoral arrangements can help ensure equal representation and give communities an equitable voice in decision-making processes.

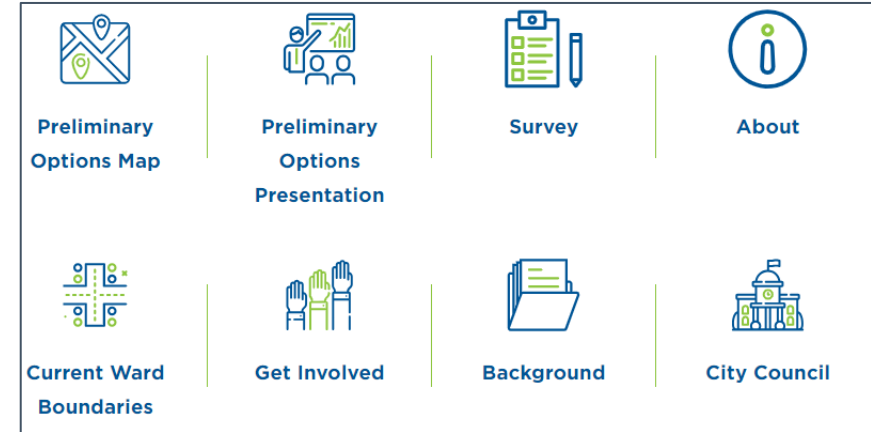
### Consider Population and Demographic Changes

A review can align boundaries, reflect population shifts, and better serve evolving community distribution and interests.

### Improve Democracy

An independent review promotes transparency and accountability, bolstering trust in the democratic system, and increasing civic engagement.

## Website Materials and Interactive Tools



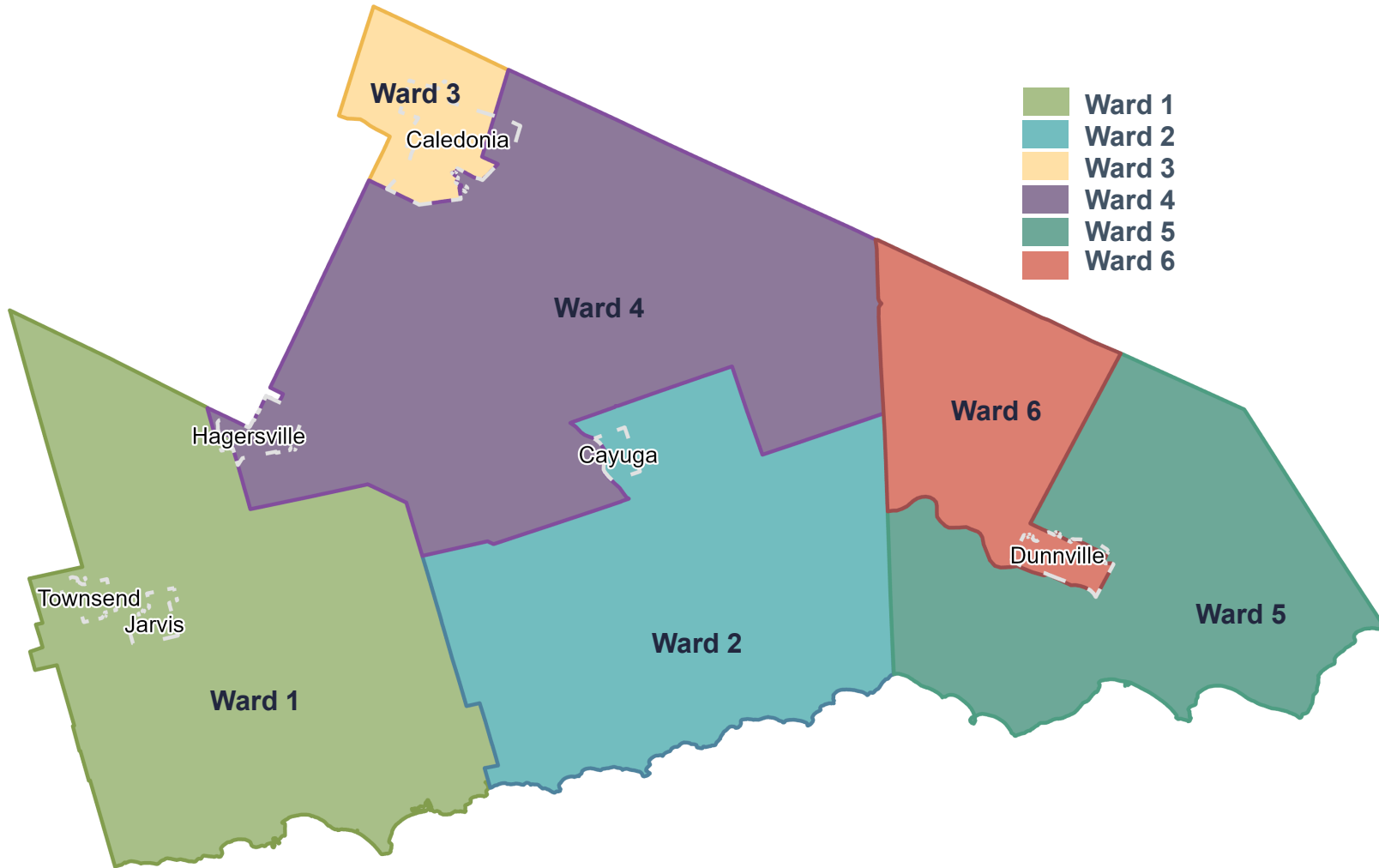
## Educational Videos



# 2024 Ward Boundary Review



## Existing Wards



- Ward 1
- Ward 2
- Ward 3
- Ward 4
- Ward 5
- Ward 6

Ward	Communities	Area (sq. Km)
1	Townsend, Jarvis	311.16
2	Cayuga	252.74
3	Caledonia	41.06
4	Hagersville, Caledonia*	354.53
5	Rural Dunnville	210.32
6	Dunnville	100.53

\*indicates portion of the community located within the ward boundary

# 2024 Ward Boundary Review



## Legislative Basis

Ontario's *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes a local municipality to:

Change the size of the Council

- Requirement that there be a minimum of five members, including the head of Council
- No appeal rights associated with executing this authority

Determine how Council (other than the Mayor) will be elected

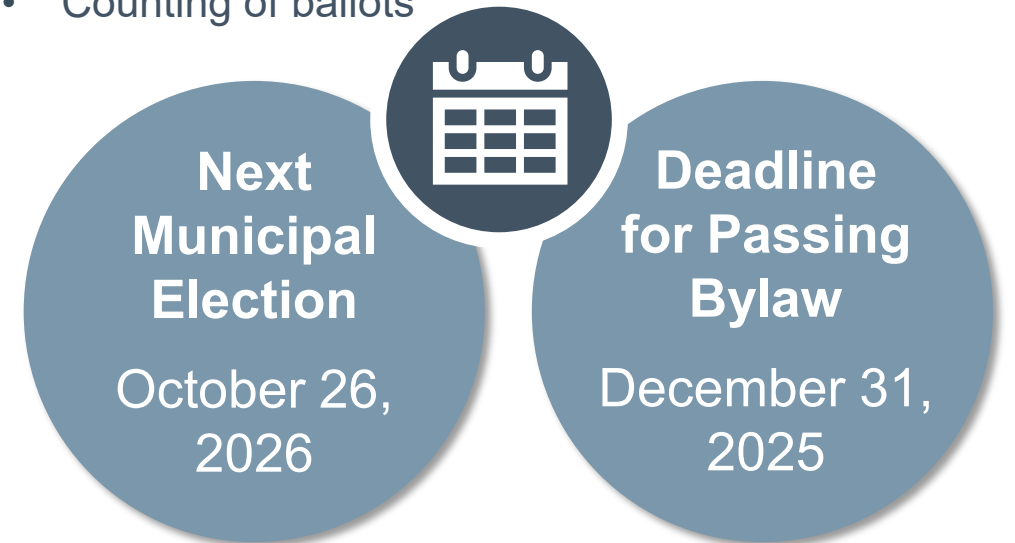
- May be elected by general vote, wards, or any combination of a general vote and wards
- No appeal rights associated with executing this authority

Divide or re-divide the municipality into wards or dissolve the existing wards

- A by-law adopted by Council is subject to appeal rights

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* standardizes key elements:

- Date of elections
- Term of office
- Eligibility
- Counting of ballots



# 2024 Ward Boundary Review

## Guiding Principles



Overriding Principle of “Effective Representation”



Balancing the present and future population distribution among the wards



Respecting established neighbourhoods and communities (Communities of Interests)



Respecting geographical features and the defining natural and infrastructure boundaries





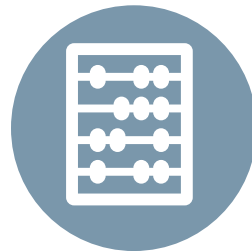
# 2024 Ward Boundary Review

## Changing Communities

---



- Municipalities must navigate population growth, shifting demographics, and changing community needs.
- Outdated electoral arrangements, including electoral systems and governance structures, may lead to unequal representation and make it challenging for elected officials to best serve the varied and changing needs of communities.
- It is a standard municipal practice to review services considered “necessary or desirable” and organizational arrangements to deliver them – the structure of the body that makes authoritative decisions (the Council) should also be reviewed from time to time.

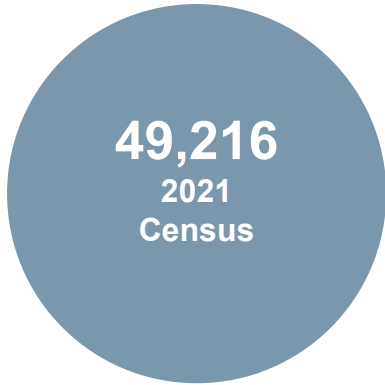


# Focus on Haldimand County

## Population and Growth



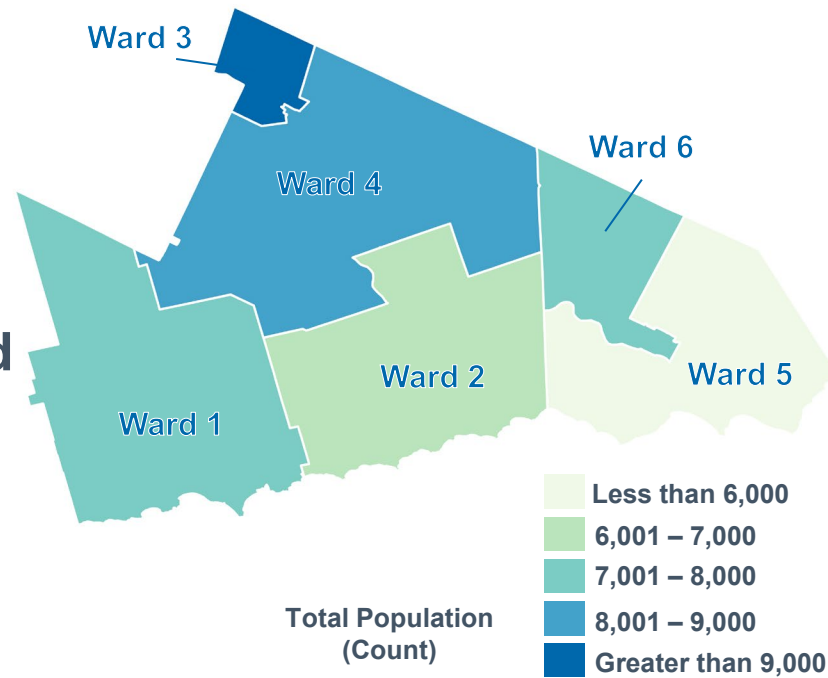
### Total Haldimand Population



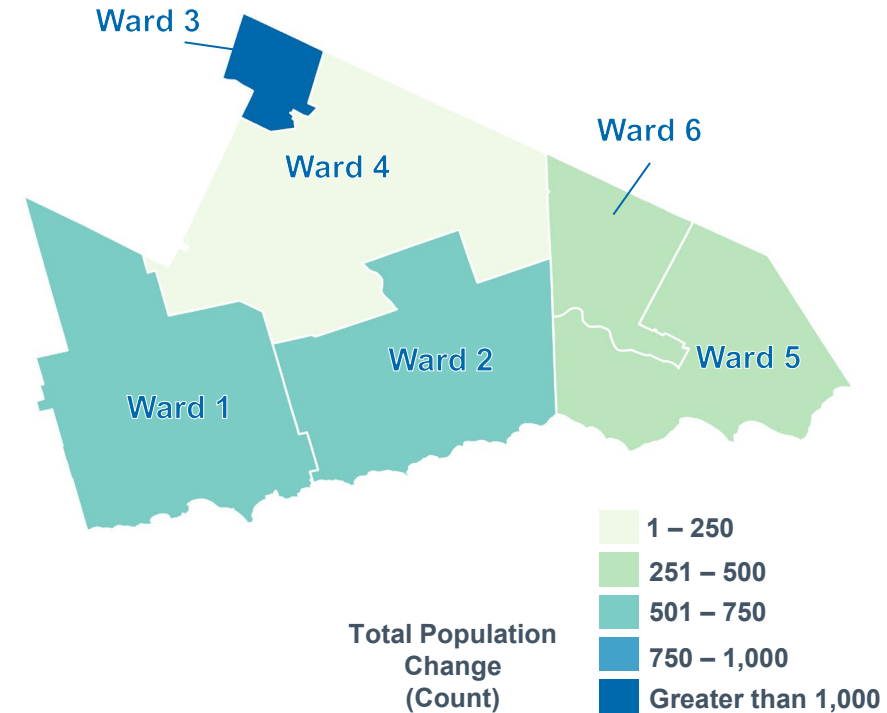
### 2011 – 2021 Total Haldimand Population Change



### 2021 Total Population by Ward



### 2011-2021 Population Change by Ward



# Focus on Haldimand County

Past, Present and Future



2001

**Haldimand County was established (Haldimand Act, 1999)**

Six wards were established with a Mayor elected at large

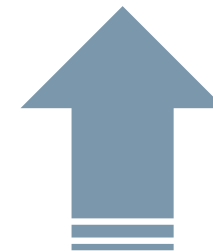
2001  
to  
2024

**Minor Boundary Adjustments**

Made to reflect changes related to urban boundary changes, largely unchanged

2024

**2024 Ward Boundary Review**



2026

**Next Municipal Election**

Any adjusted ward boundaries would be in effect for the October 26, 2026 Municipal Election

2024 WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW

# Focus on Haldimand County



## Haldimand County Council Composition and Representation in Cities



### Mayor

Elected at-large as the head of Council



### 6 Ward Councillors

Elected by ward as a local representative



Municipality	2021 Population	Area (sq.km)	Council Members	Avg. Population per Member
Norfolk County*	67,490	1,597.68	9	7,499
Welland	55,750	81.16	15	3,717
Belleville	55,071	247.15	9	6,119
North Bay	52,662	315.53	11	4,787
<b>Haldimand County*</b>	<b>49,216</b>	<b>1,270.34</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7,031</b>
Cornwall	47,845	61.50	11	4,350
Woodstock	46,705	56.46	7	6,672
St. Thomas	42,840	35.61	9	4,760
Brant County*	39,474	817.66	11	3,589
<b>Average</b>	<b>50,784</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5,391</b>

\* Single-tier municipalities

Council Members include head of Council and Regional/County Councillors where applicable.

# Next Steps

## Project Timelines and Activities

---



**Today**

### **Introductory Workshop**

Introduce Consultant Team

Provide background information

Stimulate discussion

Interview and engage with Members of Council



**Summer 2024**

### **Information Collection**

Collect core review themes and key considerations

Prepare Background Papers

*Engage community and stakeholders*



**Fall 2024**

### **Reflection and Evaluation**

Reflect on collected information

Evaluate existing ward boundaries

Explore alternatives



**Fall/Winter 2024**

### **Recommendations and Report**

*Engage community and stakeholders*

Present alternative options

Prepare and deliver recommendations to Council

# Next Steps

## Interviews with Council

---



Consider the following questions:

- What are the strongest attributes of the **present** wards?
- What are the weakest attributes of the **present** wards?
- Which of the **guiding principles** would you personally see as a priority during the Ward Boundary Review?
  - Which, in your mind, is least important?
- Are there areas of the County that appear to be **under-represented or over-represented**?