



# 2020 Ward Boundary Review

Municipality of Clarington

Final Report

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# 1. Introduction and Study Objectives

In May 2020, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. (Watson), in association with Dr. Robert J. Williams and Dr. Zachary Spicer, hereinafter referred to as the Consultant Team, was retained by the Municipality of Clarington to conduct a comprehensive ward boundary review (W.B.R.).

The primary purpose of the W.B.R. is to prepare Clarington Council to make decisions about whether to maintain the existing ward structure or to adopt an alternative arrangement. The project has a number of key objectives in accordance with the project terms of reference, as follows:

- Develop a clear understanding of the present ward system, including its origins and operations as a system of representation;
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the present ward system on the basis of identified guiding principles;
- Conduct an appropriate consultation process to ensure community support for the review and its outcome;
- Identify plausible modifications to the present ward structure; and
- Deliver a report that will set out recommended alternative ward boundaries to ensure effective and equitable electoral arrangements for Clarington, based on the principles identified.

This phase of the study provides Council with a final report and alternative ward boundary structures for their consideration, as presented herein.

# 2. Context

The basic requirement for any electoral system in a representative democracy is to establish measures to determine the people who will constitute the governmental body that makes decisions on behalf of electors. Representation in Canada is organized around geographic areas, units referred to as constituencies in the federal and provincial parliaments and typically as wards at the municipal level, as is the case in the Municipality of Clarington.



At present, Council is comprised of seven members, consisting of a Mayor, who is elected at large, and six councillors, two of whom serve as Regional Councillors. The existing ward structure is presented in Figure 2-1.

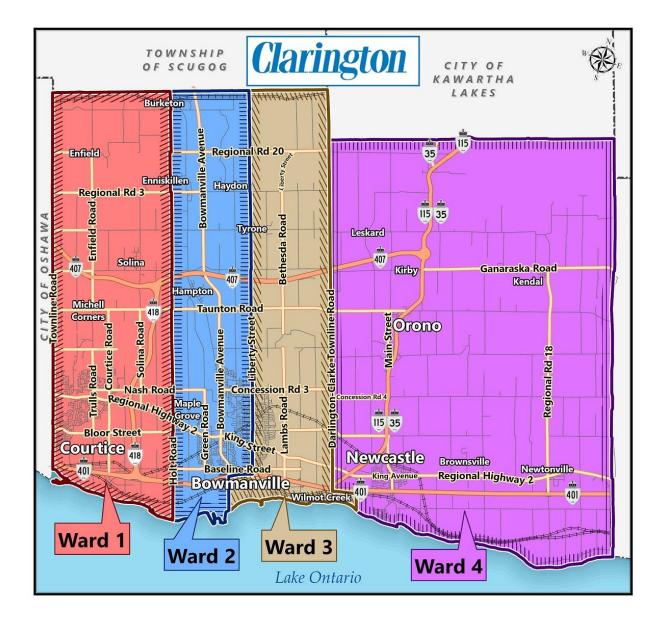


Figure 2-1: Clarington Current Ward Structure

Clarington is divided into four wards, each of which elects one local Councillor, who sits only on Clarington Council, and two Regional Councillors, who are each elected in a pair of wards. The Mayor and the two Regional Councillors sit on both the Regional and Clarington Councils.



The number and distribution of Councillors representing local municipalities on the Regional Council is determined through a process established in the *Municipal Act*, 2001, s. 218. A by-law passed in 2016 by Durham Regional Council under these provisions affirmed that the number of Clarington Regional Councillors would remain at two for the 2018 and 2022 municipal elections and cannot be modified unilaterally by Clarington Council.

The wards in which Councillors are elected in Clarington have remained unchanged since 1996. Population data from 2016 and 2020 indicate that the wards are unbalanced in population and that the overall population of Clarington will grow by approximately 30,000 by 2030, primarily within the urban settlement areas (Bowmanville, Courtice, and Newcastle).

# 3. Project Structure and Timeline

The W.B.R. commenced in May 2020 and is anticipated to be completed in December 2020.

Work completed to-date includes:

- Research and data compilation;
- Interviews with Councillors, the Mayor and municipal staff;
- Population and growth forecasting and data modelling to 2030;
- Development of four preliminary ward boundary alternatives;
- Preparation of a Discussion Paper, released to the public on July 15, 2020;
- Public consultation on existing ward structure and preliminary alternatives; and
- Development of final options and recommendations, and preparation of a Final Report (this document constitutes the Final Report).

# 4. The Discussion Paper and Interim Report

A Discussion Paper was released to the Clarington community on July 15, 2020 and is available on the Municipality's website: <a href="https://www.clarington.net/en/town-https://www.clarington



That Discussion Paper serves as a platform for the Final Report since it includes:

- An explanation of the Terms of Reference and Objectives for the W.B.R.;
- An outline of the format and timeline for the project;
- The context and background for the W.B.R.;
- A detailed discussion and explanation of the guiding principles that frame the study;
- An analysis of the distribution of the present municipal population and a forecast of population growth over the 2020 to 2030 period;
- An analysis and preliminary evaluation of the present wards within the context of the guiding principles.

An interim report was released in September 2020 which provided preliminary alternative ward options that were developed by the Consultant Team. That report is available here: <a href="https://weblink.clarington.net/WebLink/0/edoc/328658/CLD-014-20.pdf">https://weblink.clarington.net/WebLink/0/edoc/328658/CLD-014-20.pdf</a>.

The Final Report does not explore the topics discussed in either the Discussion Paper or Interim Report in detail except in summary form to provide context and assumes that those interested in the recommendations included herein have reviewed both documents.

# 5. Population and Growth Trends

One of the basic premises of representative democracy in Canada is the belief that the geographic areas used to elect a representative should be reasonably balanced with one another in terms of population. In order to evaluate the existing ward structure and subsequent alternatives in terms of representation by population in the existing year (2020), a detailed population estimate for the Municipality and its respective wards and communities was developed by Watson.



# 5.1 Historical and Existing Population

Clarington's wards were developed in 1996 when the population of the Municipality was approximately 60,600 people.<sup>1</sup> The 2016 Census of Canada reports a population of approximately 92,000, growth of over 31,400 (50% increase) over the 20-year period.<sup>2</sup>

A mid-2020 population estimate was derived through a review of building permit activity from 2016 through the year end of 2019. During this time, the Municipality of Clarington grew by approximately 3,065 units from 32,835 to 35,900 units. This increase in units is estimated to represent a growth of 6,925 persons, bringing the population from 92,000 to 98,940 excluding the Net Census Undercount.<sup>3</sup> Including a Net Census Undercount of approximately 4%, the Municipality of Clarington's 2020 population is estimate at 102,900 persons. A further review took place to understand population at a submunicipal level, by settlement areas (Bowmanville, Courtice and Newcastle) as well as at a ward-by-ward basis. As shown in Table 5-1 below, 45% of the population currently resides within Bowmanville, 28% within Courtice, 11% within Newcastle and 16% within Orono and rural communities. Approximately 84% of the Municipality's 's population resides within urban communities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada, 1996 Census of Population.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Excludes net Census undercount.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Net Census Undercount is an adjustment to the population to account for the net number of persons who are missed (i.e. over-coverage less under-coverage) during enumeration and is estimated at approximately 4% by the Region of Durham.



Table 5-1: 2020 Population Estimates by Geography

Population By Geography					
Coography	Year	Population	Total		
Geography		Population	Population <sup>1</sup>		
Urban	2020	83,040	86,360		
Bowmanville	2020	44,640	46,430		
Courtice	2020	27,430	28,530		
Newcastle	2020	10,960	11,400		
Rural/Orono	2020	15,900	16,540		
Total	2020	98,940	102,900		

Share
84%
45%
28%
11%
16%
100%

Note: Population may not add up due to rounding.

The 2020 base population was developed at a sub-municipal level, which allowed the Consultant Team to aggregate these blocks to determine populations for existing and alternative ward options. As shown below in Table 5-2, Ward 2 currently has the highest population of 33,700 (33%) followed by Ward 1 with a total population of 32,030 persons (31%). These two wards currently make up approximately two thirds of the total population, with the remaining population being split between Ward 3 (19%) and Ward 4 (17%).

The population projections and allocations developed for this study and reported below have been produced by Watson using the 2016 Census with the addition of building permits through 2016 to year-end of 2019 to estimate a 2020 population base for the purposes of this W.B.R. These numbers differ slightly from 2020 estimates provided by the Municipality and as reported in the initial Ward Boundary Review Discussion Paper.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Population includes census undercount of approximately 4.0%.



Table 5-2: 2016 and 2020 Population Estimates by Existing Ward Structure

Ward	Population 2016	Share	Estimated Population 2020	Share
Ward 1	30,763	33%	32,030	31%
Ward 2	27,651	30%	33,700	33%
Ward 3	17,675	19%	19,890	19%
Ward 4	16,071	17%	17,280	17%
Total	92,160		102,900	

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020

# 5.2 Population Forecast, 2020 to 2030

The Consultant Team, in consultation with Municipal planning staff, prepared a population forecast for Clarington through 2030. The Consultant Team considered active development applications and secondary plans to develop a forecast that conforms to the Durham Region Official Plan targets of 140,300 persons (including the net Census undercount) by 2031. During this process, intensification opportunities were also reviewed as it is mandated by the Province and associated policies, that the Municipality achieve an intensification target of 32% over the 2015 to 2031 period.

The Municipality of Clarington's population is anticipated to grow to approximately 136,500 (including net Census undercount) by 2030, a growth of 33,600. Watson developed this population target as part of the W.B.R. analysis. Of the anticipated population growth, 87% is anticipated to occur within Municipality's urban settlement areas. From 2020 to 2030, it is anticipated that Bowmanville will receive approximately 47% of the Municipal-wide population growth while Courtice and Newcastle are anticipated to accommodate 26% and 14%, respectively as displayed in Table 5-3.



Table 5-3: Population Growth by Geography

Population By Geography					
Geography	Year	Population	Total Population <sup>1</sup>		
Urban	2020	83,040	86,360		
Olban	2030	113,810	118,360		
Bowmanville	2020	44,640	46,430		
Downlanville	2030	61,170	63,610		
Courtice	2020	27,430	28,530		
Courtice	2030	34,650	36,040		
Newcastle	2020	10,960	11,400		
Newcastie	2030	17,990	18,710		
Dural/Orana	2020	15,900	16,540		
Rural/Orono	2030	17,420	18,120		
Total	2020	98,940	102,900		
Total	2030	131,230	136,480		

Share	
84%	)
87%	)
45%	)
47%	)
28%	)
26%	)
11%	)
14%	)
16%	)
13%	)
100%	)
100%	)

Note: Population may not add up due to rounding.

# 6. Public Engagement

The W.B.R. employed a comprehensive public engagement strategy, in which the Consultant Team solicited feedback from staff, Council, and citizens of the Municipality of Clarington through a variety of methods:

- Online engagement through surveys, social media outreach, and a public-facing website;
- Public consultation sessions; and
- Interviews with members of Council, the Mayor, key members of staff, and direct outreach to citizen-run and municipal organizations.

Information on the W.B.R. process was communicated through the website, as well as through social media posts on Facebook and Twitter, and additional notices were provided through local news media and newsletters. A full list of the engagements can be found in Appendix A with additional materials in Appendices B to D.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Population includes census undercount of approximately 4.0%.



# 6.1 Online Engagement

#### 6.1.1 Website

The website was established using the "Bang the Table" public engagement software, which helped to raise awareness about the W.B.R., to disseminate information about the process, and to give Clarington residents an opportunity to provide feedback (available at <a href="https://engageclarington.ca/ward-boundary-review">https://engageclarington.ca/ward-boundary-review</a>). Through this platform, residents could access the online surveys, view recordings of the public engagement sessions, view proposed ward boundary options, review background material, including the Discussion Paper and Interim Report, and provide feedback directly to staff and the Consultant Team. A purpose-built Whiteboard Animation Video was also posted, which distilled some key information about the W.B.R. into an accessible format (available at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXwoIm8z59Q&feature=youtu.be">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXwoIm8z59Q&feature=youtu.be</a>).

Engagement with Clarington's W.B.R. website was moderate. As of November 29, 2020, it had received 2,023 visitors, with a peak of 125 in a single day. Of these visitors, 1,586 simply visited the page but demonstrated little further engagement, and so were categorized by the "Bang the Table" software as "Aware." Two hundred and forty-nine people visited the Key Dates page, the FAQ page, or visited multiple project pages, and so were categorized as "Informed." Meanwhile, 188 visitors were categorized as "Engaged Participants," having completed online Quick Polls. For example, in Phase 2 a Quick Poll asked whether participants felt Clarington's wards should be changed – there were 46 respondents, with 67% favouring a change and 33% no change. Note, however, that these metrics refer to engagement through the Municipality's W.B.R. website, and do not convey the full extent of public engagement with the W.B.R. process as whole – for example, others may have completed the longer-form surveys (191 respondents in round 1 and 108 respondents in round 2; see section 6.1.2), or participated in the Public Consultation Sessions. Detailed website engagement metrics are available in Appendix B.

#### 6.1.2 Surveys

The surveys provided the Consultant Team with an opportunity to gauge public preferences using both qualitative and quantitative analytical techniques. Surveying was done at two different stages of the public consultation process – an initial round to evaluate public priorities and perspectives on the existing ward structure, and a later



survey which asked respondents to assess and rank a set of preliminary ward boundary options. The Phase 1 survey was open from June 23 to July 31, 2020 and resulted in 191 responses. Respondents were asked to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the existing wards, and to rank the guiding principles in terms of priority. In general, residents of Clarington indicated that representation by population and effective representation were more important than the other guiding principles, and many respondents communicated a strong sense of identity with their local communities within the Municipality of Clarington. A detailed description of the results from the initial survey round are available in the Interim Report.

One hundred and eight (108) people participated in the Phase 2 survey. Of these respondents, 50% indicated that they felt the current number of councillors in Clarington is appropriate, while 42% said there are too few, and 8% said there are currently too many. Respondents then ranked the preliminary ward boundary options, and each option was given a score aggregating these rankings. The 5-ward option – Option C – received the highest score, with 30% of respondents ranking it first, and only 14% ranking it last. Option B (4 wards) was close behind as it was also ranked first by 30% of respondents, but a greater number ranked it as a less preferred option. Option A – the other 4-ward option – as ranked first by only 19% of respondents, but 38% ranked it second, suggesting that, while it isn't ideal for many respondents, it is at least acceptable to many. The 6-ward option was the least popular, ranked first 21% of the time, but was ranked last by 42%.

It may be expected that when ranking preferred options respondents would simply pursue personal interests, and so those residing in more rural wards might opt for greater rural representation, while urban residents opt for more urban representation. It is interesting to note, however, that while residents of each ward did express some variation in their preferences, the overall picture was quite consistent. Preliminary Option D had the lowest score in all four wards, and Option C had the highest ranking in three wards. Those respondents residing in Ward 2 expressed a stronger preference for the four-ward options, ranking Option B highest, followed by Option A. This discrepancy may be attributable to the strong sense of community identity felt by the inhabitants of Bowmanville, many of whom desire that their community be represented as a single voice. For instance, one participant acknowledged the population disparity in Option B, but still ranked it highest, stating that "Bowmanville should be one ward." Several other residents of Ward 2 also cited concerns about the tax burden associated



with increasing the number of wards and prioritized Options A and B as a result. A full breakdown of Preliminary Option Preferences by ward is available in Appendix D (Table D-4).

Throughout both rounds of surveying, the open-form comments provided key insights into public preferences and the issues in play. The Consultant Team evaluated these comments for general themes and identified insightful responses that highlighted crucial issues. One recurring sentiment was a sense of identification with the local communities within Clarington, rather than identifying with Clarington Municipality as its own entity. As a result, many respondents prioritized options that keep like-communities together. However, representation by population was also recognized as an important factor and so there was some appetite for increasing the number of wards as a way to help keep communities together while allowing something closer to population parity.

In order to better visualize recurrent themes in the open-form comments sections, the written responses from both survey rounds were used to populate a word bank, which was statistically analyzed and used to create the word cloud depicted in Figure 6-1, below.

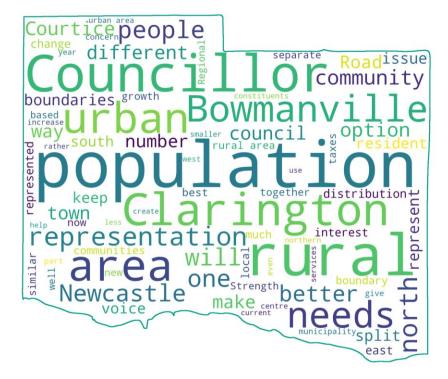


Figure 6-1: Clarington Word Cloud



#### 6.1.3 Social Media Engagement

While some degree of community outreach was achieved through more traditional avenues such as radio and print advertisements (details on specific initiatives available in Appendix A), the greatest success was through social media engagement. This was made evident by a question in the Phase 2 survey that asked respondents to indicate how they became aware of the W.B.R. – "Social Media" accounted for more than half (57%) of responses. Similarly, traffic sources analysis from the Engage Clarington website indicated that of the visitors directed there from external sources, 40% were from Facebook, more than any other avenue (the Municipality of Clarington website came in second at 30%).

Social media engagement occurred through Twitter and Facebook, on which notices were posted informing the public of the PICs, the survey, and the website. In total, 52 notices were sent on each platform. On Twitter, the notices generated 31,508 Impressions, 25 Retweets, 30 Likes, and posted links were followed 246 times. Visibility was somewhat greater on Facebook, on which the notices generated 58,890 Impressions, 93 Reactions, 15 comments, 57 Shares, and posted links were followed 435 times (further details are available in Appendix B).

In addition, a 9-question brain teaser survey entitled "How Well Do You Know Clarington?" was circulated online, which quizzed respondents on their knowledge of their municipality. It was intended to be a fun method for informing the public, which would hopefully generate excitement about the W.B.R.

#### 6.2 Public Consultation Sessions

The Consultant Team also held a series of public consultation sessions with Clarington residents. Following public health guidelines put in place due to the COVID-19 outbreak, four public open houses were conducted virtually on July 8, 2020 and July 15, 2020 after the release of the Discussion Paper, with two, hour-long, virtual consultation sessions each day. Residents had the option of participating either online through a video conferencing platform, or by calling in via telephone. Feedback from these sessions was used to inform the recommendations provided in the Interim Report. After the release of the Interim Report, four more virtual open houses were held on October 1, 2020, October 15, 2020, October 28, 2020 and November 10, 2020. Again, each session was 60 minutes in length. It should be highlighted that, while these Public



Consultation Sessions had to be held virtually due to COVID-19, there were eight sessions in total, which is more than the number of in-person sessions that would have occurred under normal circumstances. Thus, while gathering restrictions may have posed some barriers to public engagement, such additional measures helped to mitigate any disruption. The Consultant Team's presentation and other information about the review, including the audio recording of the Public Meetings, is available online at <a href="https://engageclarington.ca/ward-boundary-review">https://engageclarington.ca/ward-boundary-review</a>. Further, the posterboards presented in the Public Consultation Sessions are also available in Appendix C of this document.

#### 6.3 Interviews and Direct Community Outreach

In addition to the public engagement, it was crucial for the Consultant Team to benefit from the perspectives of professionals in government and community organizations throughout the Municipality. A series of interviews was conducted with the Mayor and members of Council, as well as with senior staff in the Municipality. Sessions to discuss and review the Preliminary Options were arranged with the Municipality's Accessibility Committee, Diversity Committee, and in the first round of engagement a presentation session was held with the Clarington Agricultural Advisory Committee. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing was also advised of the commencement of the Review. In addition, information and materials were provided to community organizations like the Bowmanville Older Adults Association, the Kiwanis Group, the Bowmanville Community Group, the Enniskillen Community Board, the Hampton Community Association, and the North Courtice Neighbourhood Association (further outreach described in Appendix A). This outreach helped to ensure that members of the community were aware of the project and of the different avenues for engagement.

The feedback and comments received through the consultation process are reflected in the analysis and have helped inform the findings and recommendations. While public input from consultation provides valuable insight into the review, it is not relied on exclusively. This is in part because only a subset of the population participated in the W.B.R., which may not be representative of Clarington's population as a whole. The Consultant Team utilized the public input in conjunction with its professional expertise and experience in W.B.R.s, along with knowledge of best practices, to develop the recommended options.



Detailed information on the public engagement process, including statistics on each engagement tool, is provided in Appendix 1. Additional information about responses to the first round of consultation is also available in the Interim Report.

# 7. Principles

The Municipality of Clarington has established core principles and other directions for an electoral review:

- Representation by Population
- Population Trends
- Community Access and Connections
- Geographic and Topographical Features
- Community or Diversity of Interests
- Effective Representation

These principles are discussed at length in section 3.5 of the Discussion Paper, but deserve revisiting briefly in this final report, given that the choice before Council requires a thorough consideration of the importance of each principle and a considered evaluation of which of the principles is most important for determining an appropriate system of representation for the 2022 municipal election in Clarington.

The principles contribute to on-going access between elected officials and residents, but they may occasionally conflict with one another. Accordingly, it is expected that the overriding principle of effective representation will be used to arbitrate conflicts between principles. Any deviation from the specific principles must be justified by other principles in a manner that is more supportive of effective representation.

The priority attached to certain principles makes some designs more desirable in the eyes of different observers. Ultimately, the ward design adopted by Clarington's Council should be the one that best fulfills as many of the guiding principles as possible.

# 8. Clarington's Existing Ward Structure

A preliminary evaluation of the existing ward structure in Clarington is found in section 5 of the Discussion Paper. That discussion, along with input received through the public consultation process, rigorously applied the guiding principles to the individual wards and the overall design, found in Table 8-1.



The analysis suggests that the existing ward boundary configuration in Clarington does not fully meet the expectations for five of the six guiding principles. In other words, it would be improbable that a review aiming to meet the principles set out for this W.B.R. would recommend a structure that follows the existing ward boundaries.

Table 8-1: Existing Clarington Ward Configuration Evaluation Summary

Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle? <sup>1</sup>	Comment
Representation by Population	No	Population data suggest that two wards are outside of the acceptable range of variance and a third is approaching the lower end of the defined range of variation. None can be considered to fall within the range of "parity."
Population Trends	No	The current ward structure would not suitably accommodate future population growth. Population disparities throughout the wards would be expected to worsen through the 2022, 2026 and 2030 election cycles.
Community Access and Connections	No	Existing ward system runs narrowly from north to south, capturing both rural and urban communities that have few natural social or economic connections.
Geographic and Topographical Features	Partially successful	Existing ward boundaries take advantage of prominent geographical features, such as major transportation routes and



Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle? <sup>1</sup>	Comment
		historical markers. Boundaries are easy to comprehend and follow easily recognizable features.
Community or Diversity of Interests	No	While the existing ward structure provides adequate support for the three major urban communities of interest, they largely fail to account for certain economic or cultural communities that are distributed over several wards.
Effective Representation	No	The current population disparities between wards are too great to achieve effective representation. These disparities are likely to grow in the future.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The degree to which each guiding principle is satisfied is ranked as "Yes" (fully satisfied), "Largely Successful," "Partially Successful" or "No" (not satisfied).

The existing ward boundaries confront two main challenges: providing for population parity between wards and accounting for communities of interest.

The objective of population parity (every councillor generally representing an equal number of constituents within his or her respective ward) is the primary goal of an electoral redistribution with some degree of variation acceptable in light of population densities and demographic factors across the Municipality. The indicator of success in a ward design is the extent to which all the individual wards approach an "optimal" size.

Optimal size can be understood as a mid-point on a scale where the term "optimal" (O) describes a ward with a population within 5% on either side of the calculated optimal size. The classification "below/above optimal" (O + or O -) is applied to a ward with a



population between 6% and 25% on either side of the optimal size. A ward that is labelled "outside the range" (OR + or OR -) indicates that its population is greater than 25% above or below the optimal ward size. The adoption of a 25% maximum variation is based on federal redistribution legislation and is widely applied in municipalities like Clarington that include both urban and rural areas.

Based on the Municipality's overall 2016 Census population (92,160) and municipal population estimates for 2020 of approximately 102,900, the optimal population size for a local ward in a four-ward system in Clarington would be 25,725.<sup>4</sup>

**Estimated Population** Ward **Variance Population** Variance 2016 2020 1.34 OR + 1.25 O +1 30,763 32,030 2 27,651 1.20 O +33.700 1.31 OR + 3 0.77 0 -0.77 0 -17,675 19,890 0.70 OR -0.67 OR -16,071 17,280 Total 92,160 **Optimal** 102,900 **Optimal** 23,040 25,725

Table 8-2: Population by Existing Ward, 2016 and 2020

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020. Note: 2020 population estimates have been rounded.

Population data suggests two wards are outside the acceptable range of variance and the other two are at or close to the outer edge of the acceptable range of variation. None of the wards can be considered to fall within what is referred to as the "optimal" range, that is, within 5% on either side of optimal. By 2031, the Municipality of Clarington is estimated to reach a population of 140,300.<sup>5</sup> Much of this growth is expected in the larger southern population centres of Courtice, Bowmanville and Newcastle. Without adjustment the disparities between the wards will continue.

Responses to the survey and participation in the public consultation sessions have largely shown that Clarington residents have a strong affinity towards their individual

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Population and growth trends for Clarington are included in the Discussion Paper, pages 11 to 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Source: Municipality of Clarington Official Plan, 2018.



communities, such as Bowmanville and Courtice. The consultation process also revealed that there are strong rural and agricultural interests and many well-established hamlets that are not specifically represented on Council. It is clear that these communities have interests that are distinct from the larger, more populated communities in the south, but the current ward boundaries group extensive rural areas and northern hamlets with those larger urban and suburban settlements in the south, which has at times diluted their voice.

All told, analysis of the current and future population trends, along with feedback received during the public consultation leads to a recommendation that Council should consider alternate ward configurations.

# 9. Recommended Options

As mentioned in the Discussion Paper and Interim Report, Clarington provides a unique challenge when finding a suitable ward boundary system. Clarington is a community created through amalgamation with three large population centres (Courtice, Bowmanville, and Newcastle) that are rapidly growing. These communities are all located in the south, along Lake Ontario, and have very different economic and social patterns than the more sparsely populated hamlets in the north. One of these large southern population centres, Bowmanville, is also much larger than the other two, which provides an additional challenge in keeping that community within a single ward. As such, balancing communities of interest with population parity has been a steep challenge for the Consultant Team.

Ultimately, the choice of ward system is a decision for Council. Taking the guiding principles of the review into consideration, along with feedback from residents and the expertise and experience of the Consultant Team, three options have been prepared for Council to consider below. Each places emphasis on the different values incorporated throughout the review process and takes into account their relative importance as identified through the consultation process. Council must implicitly decide which of the guiding principles it values the most. Doing so will make the decision about which system to adopt much easier. As discussed above, it is not recommended that Council retain the current ward boundary system.



#### **Recommended Option: Option A**

The first option presents a four-ward system and places an emphasis on population parity. As mentioned above, the unique settlement patterns in Clarington make it difficult to place each defined community of interest into a single ward. Option A preserves some communities of interest, but also allows for a much more balanced distribution of the population between the wards than the current system.

Ward 1 stretches from Lake Ontario in the south towards the northern municipal boundary using Highway 418 as a boundary in the south, before heading east along Taunton Road towards Highway 57 and then running northward. Wards 2 and 3 contain Bowmanville, using Highway 418 in the west, the Darlington-Clarke Townline in the east, Lake Ontario in the south and Taunton Road in the north as boundary lines. Bowmanville is bisected along Bloor/Concession Street, which interviews and public consultation have identified as a much more natural divider through Bowmanville than Liberty Street, which is currently used to separate Wards 2 and 3. Ward 4 runs from the Darlington-Clarke Townline in the west towards the municipal boundary in the east and then to the municipal boundary in the north. Highway 57 separates Wards 1 and 4 in the north.

While the population in Wards 1 and 2 are higher than in 3 and 4, this disparity begins to slightly diminish over time, providing an adequate population distribution between the wards now and through the two following elections.

By selecting Option A, Council is affirming its preference for achieving better population parity between the wards than is possible in the present configuration.



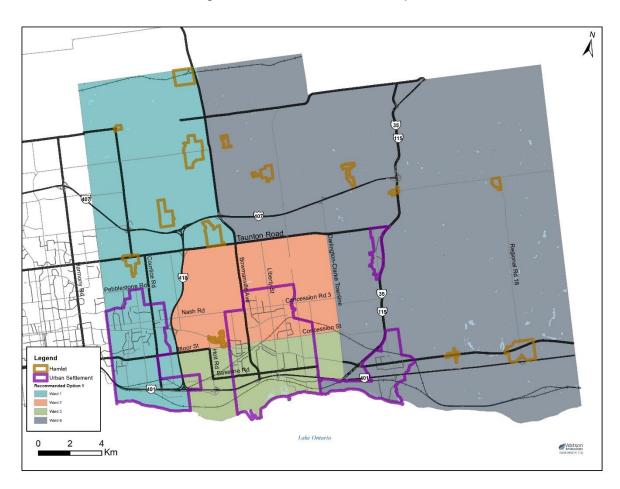


Figure 9-1: Recommended Option A

Recommended Option A

Ward #	Total Population 2020	Variance	Total Population 2030	Variance
Ward 1	33,350	130%	41,530	122%
Ward 2	26,630	104%	36,530	107%
Ward 3	22,370	87%	29,820	87%
Ward 4	20,560	80%	28,590	84%
Total	102,900		136,470	
Average	25,725		34,120	

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.

Note: Numbers have been rounded.



#### **Recommended Option: Option B**

The second option presents a four-ward system and places an emphasis on the preservation of communities of interest. This option proposes a distinct northern ward, placing many of the rural and agricultural communities in Clarington into a single ward. As mentioned earlier, the Consultant Team heard that a distinct voice for rural and agricultural interests was needed on Council. Clarington's current ward boundaries capture both densely populated, urban communities in the south and sparsely populated rural communities in the north. Option B changes this dynamic, ensuring that the north would have a distinct voice in Council. Option B also creates distinct wards for Courtice, Newcastle and Orono. The majority of Bowmanville is contained in Ward 2, which is why the population is much higher for this ward as compared to the others. Overall, this option largely preserves the distinct communities of interests within Clarington while still maintaining a four-ward system.

Wards 1 and 2 use Pebblestone Road in the north and Lake Ontario in the south as boundaries. Holt Road separates Wards 1 and 2. Lambs Road provides an eastern boundary for Ward 2. Ward 3 uses Taunton Road as a northern boundary, running towards the eastern municipal border. Ward 4 contains the entire northern portion of Clarington. While this option does provide for a much-needed voice on council for the northern communities and agricultural interest in Clarington, it fails to achieve population parity. Ward 4 contains only a very small percentage of Clarington's population, but covers nearly half its geography.

By selecting Option B, Council is affirming its preference for basing political representation on Clarington's distinct communities of interest.



Taunton Road

Ta

Figure 9-2: Recommended Option B

Recommended Option B

Ward #	Total Population 2020	Variance	Total Population 2030	Variance
Ward 1	29,640	115%	37,210	109%
Ward 2	47,170	183%	60,960	179%
Ward 3	17,480	68%	28,740	84%
Ward 4	8,610	33%	9,570	28%
Total	102,900		136,470	
Average	25,725		34,120	

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.

Note: Numbers have been rounded.



#### **Recommended Option: Option C**

As mentioned above, finding the right system for Clarington would be challenging given the municipality's unique geography and settlement patterns. While adding wards is not explicitly in the mandate of this W.B.R., striking a balance between communities of interest and population parity requires exploring the option of a fifth councillor. We present this option below.

To be clear, the Consultant Team has heard through interviews and the public consultation process that adding additional voices to the Council table may be prudent to contribute to the democratic needs of the community in the future. Among the comments were statements like, "Rural needs are different from the urban needs," "Need to create a new ward for North Clarington" and "would love to see the northern residents have a ward to themselves." Given that councillors in Clarington serve on a part-time basis, the cost to add councillors would be modest and would likely increase the quality of representation across the municipality. A ward system with an additional ward, or two, would be reasonable to consider as an alternative to the current model.

One complication of this Option would be identifying equitable combinations of the five wards to elect two Regional Councillors. An alternative would be to elect the two Clarington Regional Councillors at-large (like the mayor) but this has never been done and the legislative authority is unclear.

Wards 1, 2 and 3 use Nash/Concession Road as a northern boundary. Lake Ontario serves as a southern boundary for each ward. Highway 418 divides Wards 1 and 2, while Liberty Street bisects Bowmanville and separates Wards 2 and 3. Highway 115 separates Wards 3 and 4, while Ward 4 extends to the eastern municipal boundary and is separated from Ward 5 by the Darlington-Clarke Townline. Ward 5 encapsulates the territory north of Nash/Concession Road to the northern municipal boundary. Relative population parity is achieved in this model by including some of the growth emanating from Courtice and Bowmanville in Ward 5. Ward 4 contains Newcastle and Orono, which again helps to balance the population in comparison to the other wards.

By selecting Option C, Council is affirming its preference for achieving improved population parity while still providing voices for Clarington's communities of interest.



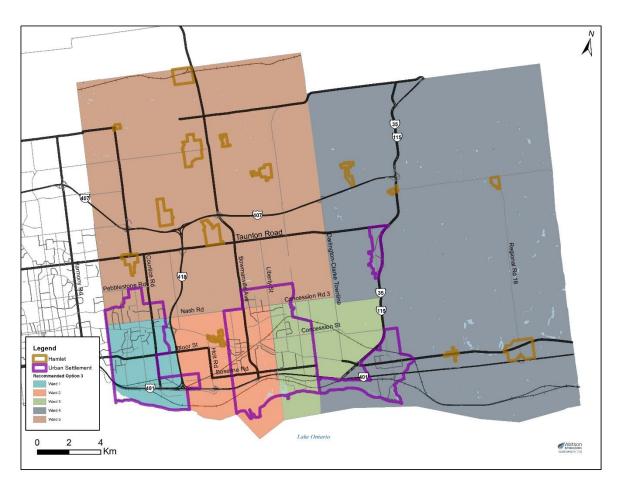


Figure 9-3: Recommended Option C

Recommended Option C

Ward #	Total Population 2020	Variance	Total Population 2030	Variance
Ward 1	20,120	98%	26,830	98%
Ward 2	27,960	136%	36,420	133%
Ward 3	16,920	82%	24,380	89%
Ward 4	18,420	90%	26,300	96%
Ward 5	19,480	95%	22,540	83%
Total	102,900		136,470	
Average	20,580		27,294	

Source: Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., 2020.

Note: Numbers have been rounded.



# 10. Next Steps & Council Decisions

This report will be presented to Council at a meeting scheduled for January 4, 2021. During their deliberation, Council has a series of choices to make. Councillors must decide if they value the preservation of communities of interests or population parity between the wards as the leading criterion on which to base their decision. If they do not wish to decide between either, they have a third option, which strikes a balance between both but adds an additional councillor. Council must decide if they believe this trade-off is best for the community.

One final course of action for Council is to take no action at all. Council may view the current ward system as adequate and endorse it by not selecting an alternative option. In doing so, they must clearly affirm the reasons why they believe the current ward system still serves the residents of Clarington well. Within this report, the Consultant Team has highlighted deficiencies in the current ward boundary system in relation to the guiding principles. These deficiencies have led the Consultant Team to conclude that the current ward boundary system no longer serves the residents of Clarington well and ought to be changed. The public engagement efforts throughout this review have been consistent with this view: in the online quick poll on the review website, 67% of respondents favoured a change, of some kind, to the ward system. Only 33% wanted to see no changes made. Council is reminded that taking no action on this matter constitutes a deliberate decision and there must be a defensible rationale for that decision both publicly and at LPAT, if required.

Depending on Council's decision related to the Final Options contained in this report, ratification of a by-law to implement the preferred option is expected to occur shortly after the January 4, 2021 meeting.



# Appendix A Public Engagement



Figure A-1: List of Public Engagement Tools

Tool	Description
Engage Clarington Website	A dedicated engagement website was developed for the W.B.R. Study at https://www.clarington.net/wardboundaryreview. The webpage included an informative whiteboard video, links to public engagement sessions and surveys and up-to-date messaging to inform the public of the status of the Ward Boundary Review Project.  See Appendix B for Engagement Metrics
Public Consultation Sessions	<ul> <li>2 rounds of 4 open houses were held:         <ul> <li>Round 1:</li></ul></li></ul>
Public Engagement Surveys	2 surveys corresponded to each round of public open houses.  See Appendix D for a summary of the results.
Community Group Outreach	<ul> <li>Bowmanville Community Group, Ontario Canada</li> <li>Bowmanville Community Connection</li> <li>Burketon Station, Ontario, Canada</li> <li>Courtice Community Connect</li> <li>Enniskillen Community Board (Ontario)</li> <li>Hampton Community Association</li> <li>Kiwanis Groups</li> <li>Newcastle, Ontario</li> <li>North Courtice Neighbourhood Association</li> <li>Orono, Ontario</li> <li>The Town of Bowmanville community page</li> </ul>



Organizational Outreach	<ul> <li>Accessibility Committee</li> <li>Agricultural Advisory Committee</li> <li>Diversity Committee</li> <li>Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing</li> </ul>		
Interviews with members of Council	Each Member of Council was invited to participate in a one- hour discussion with the consultant. Five of the seven Members of Council participated.		
Newspaper Ads	14 ads were published in Clarington This Week and 13 in the Orono Times.		
Radio	In Phase 2, Mayor Foster was interviewed on Durham Radio, about the W.B.R.		
Social Media	Notices were posted via Twitter and Facebook informing the public of the PICs, the survey, and the website (Appendix B). Additionally, a "brain teaser" survey was circulated.		
Direct Outreach	Informational newsletters sent to 261 recipients; 204 opened the email; 4 individuals clicked on the links to the W.B.R.		



# Appendix B Online Engagement Metrics



# Project Report 10 November 2017 - 29 November 2020

# **Engage Clarington Ward Boundary Review**



#### Visitors Summary Highlights MAX VISITORS PER VISITS 1000 125 2.1 k NEW REGISTRATI ONS 500 1 INFORMED VISITORS ENGAGED AWARE VISITORS VISITORS 1 Oct '20 Visitors 1 Jul '20

\_ Visits

188

249

1.6 k

Pageviews

\_\_ New Registrations

Aware Participants 1,586		Engaged Participants	188		
Aware Actions Performed	Participants	Engaged Actions Performed	Registered	Unverified	Anonymous
Visited a Project or Tool Page	1,586		riegistereu	Univernied	Anonymous
Informed Participants	249	Contributed on Forums	0	0	0
Informed Actions Performed	Participants	Participated in Surveys	0	0	0
Viewed a video	0	Contributed to Newsfeeds	0	0	0
Viewed a photo	0	Participated in Quick Polls	2	0	186
Downloaded a document	0	Posted on Guestbooks	0	0	0
Visited the Key Dates page	9	Contributed to Stories	0	0	0
Visited an FAQ list Page	66	Asked Questions	0	0	0
Visited Instagram Page	0	Placed Pins on Places	0	0	0
Visited Multiple Project Pages	54	Contributed to Ideas	0	0	0
Contributed to a tool (engaged)	188				



Engage Clarington: Summary Report for 10 November 2017 to 29 November 2020

#### **ENGAGEMENT TOOLS SUMMARY**



Tool Type	Engagement Tool Name	Tool Status	Visitors	Contributors		
	Engagement Foot Name			Registered	Unverified	Anonymous
Newsfeed	Ward Boundary Review Interim Report now available	Published	1	0	0	0
Newsfeed	Phase One Virtual Public Information Sessions complete	Published	0	0	0	0
Quick Poll	ck Poll Which guiding principle do you think will provide the mos		157	2	0	143
Quick Poll	Do you think Clarington's wards should stay the same or c	Published	46	0	0	46

Engage Clarington : Summary Report for 10 November 2017 to 29 November 2020

#### **INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY**



Widget Type	Engagement Tool Name	Visitors	Views/Downloads
Faqs	faqs	66	78
Key Dates	Key Date	9	13



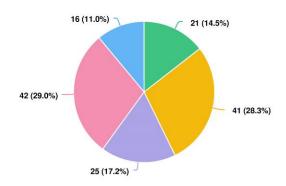
Engage Clarington : Summary Report for 10 November 2017 to 29 November 2020

#### **ENGAGEMENT TOOL: QUICK POLL**

Which guiding principle do you think will provide the most effective and equitable system of representation for Clarington residents?



Which guiding principle do you think will provide the most effective and equitable system of representation for Clarington ...





Mandatory Question (145 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

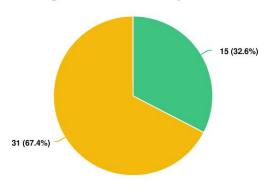
Engage Clarington: Summary Report for 10 November 2017 to 29 November 2020

#### **ENGAGEMENT TOOL: QUICK POLL**

Do you think Clarington's wards should stay the same or change?



Do you think Clarington's wards should stay the same or change?





Mandatory Question (46 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question



All	Twitter	Facebook	
Sent Metrics	8		Totals
Total Ser	nt		52
Impression	ns		31,508
Retweets			25
Likes			30
Post Link (	Clicks		246
Received Me	etrics		Totals
Total Red	ceived		3
Tweets			2
Direct Mes	ssages		0
Retweets			0
Quote Twe	eets		1
New Follov	ver Alerts		0



All	Twitter	Facebook	
Sent Metrics	S		Totals
Total Sei	nt		52
Impression	าร		58,890
Average Re	each per Post		1,027
Reactions			93
Comments	5		15
Shares			57
Post Clicks	s (All)		1,460
Post Link (	Clicks		435
Received Me	etrics		Totals
Total Red	ceived		5
Posts			0
Comments	6		5
Ad Comme	ents		0



# Appendix C Public Consultation Sessions





#### Project Overview and Objectives

- Ensure residents are fairly represented by elected officials on Clarington Council;
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the present wards on the basis of identified guiding principles;
- Ensure an open and transparent public engagement process with thoughtful and fulsome consideration of community feedback;
- Identify plausible changes to the present ward structure; and
- Deliver a report that will set out recommendations, for Council to consider, on possible alternative ward boundaries, based on the principles identified.

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In association with Dr. Robert J. Williams and Dr. Zachary Spicer





#### **Guiding Principles**

The following principles will be used to evaluate the existing ward structure and subsequent alternative options:

2	
1	REPRESENTATION BY POPULATION  Ensure that every Councillor generally represents an equal number of constituents while allowing for some variation
2	COMMUNITY OR DIVERSITY OF INTERESTS Recognize community groupings and trying to keep them intact
3	EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION  Evaluate the capacity of each ward to give residents an effective voice in decision making
4	POPULATION TRENDS  Consider projected growth and population shifts over a three- election cycle
5	COMMUNITY ACCESS AND CONNECTIONS  Reflect customary transportation/communication relationships among communities
6	GEOGRAPHIC OR TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES  Ward boundaries should be recognizable and where possible use permanent/natural features

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#### Population and Growth Trends

- Clarington's population has grown by approximately 50% since the existing wards were created in 1996;
- Clarington's 2020 population is approximately 102,900 persons;
- Approximately 85% of Clarington's current populations resides within urban settlement areas (Bowmanville, Courtice, and Newcastle);
- 15% of Clarington's population resides within rural communities; and
- The Municipality's population is expected to grow to approximately 140,300 persons (Including 4.0% census Undercount).



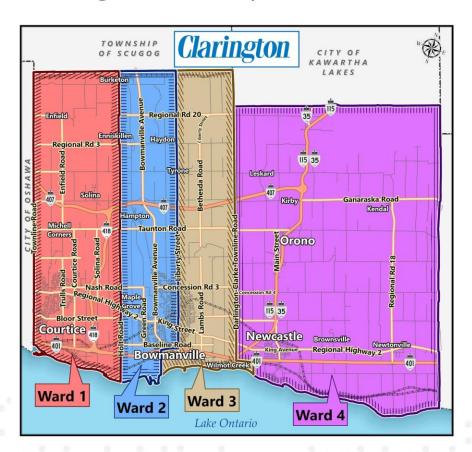
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#### Existing Ward Map



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#### Clarington – Preliminary Option A



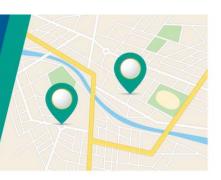
Preliminary Option A	Total Population 2020	Variance	Total Population 2030	Variance
Ward 1	33,350	130%	41,530	122%
Ward 2	26,630	104%	36,530	107%
Ward 3	23,180	90%	31,650	93%
Ward 4	19,750	77%	26,760	78%
Total	102,900		136,470	
Average	25,728		34,118	

Note: Numbers have been rounded.

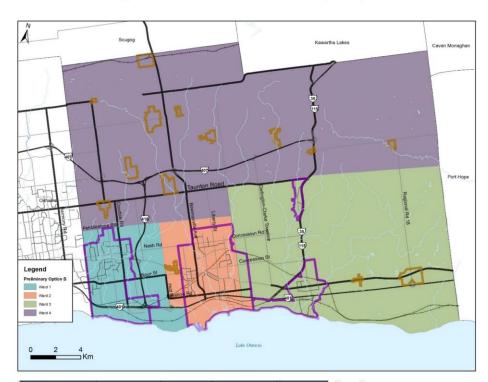
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#### Clarington – Preliminary Option B



Preliminary Option B	Total Population 2020	Variance	Total Population 2030	Variance
Ward 1	29,640	115%	37,210	109%
Ward 2	47,170	183%	60,960	179%
Ward 3	17,480	68%	28,740	84%
Ward 4	8,610	33%	9,570	28%
Total	102,900		136,470	
Average	25,725		34,120	

Note: Numbers have been rounded

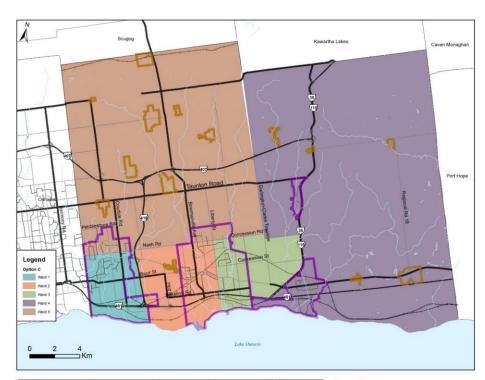
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### Clarington – Preliminary Option C



Preliminary Option C	Total Population 2020	Variance	Total Population 2030	Variance
Ward 1	20,120	98%	26,830	98%
Ward 2	27,960	136%	36,420	133%
Ward 3	16,920	82%	24,380	89%
Ward 4	18,420	90%	26,300	96%
Ward 5	19,480	95%	22,540	83%
Total	102,900		136,470	
Average	20,580		27,294	

Note: Numbers have been rounded.

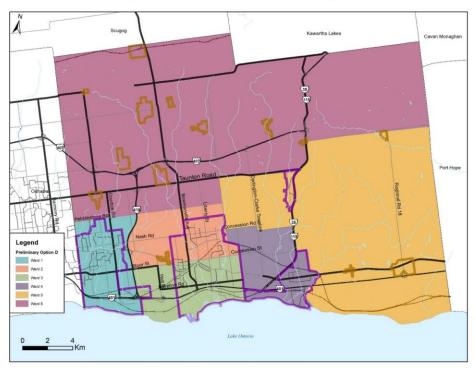
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### Clarington – Preliminary Option D



Preliminary Option D	Total Population 2020	Variance	Total Population 2030	Variance
Ward 1	28,850	168%	36,370	160%
Ward 2	25,870	151%	35,760	157%
Ward 3	22,310	130%	29,770	131%
Ward 4	12,110	71%	19,440	85%
Ward 5	5,650	33%	6,130	27%
Ward 6	8,100	47%	9,000	40%
Total	102,900		136,470	
Average	17 148		22 745	

Note: Numbers have been rounded

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# Appendix D Public Engagment Survey Results



### Municipality of Clarington Public Engagement Survey – Phase 1

Figure D-1 Which ward do you live in?

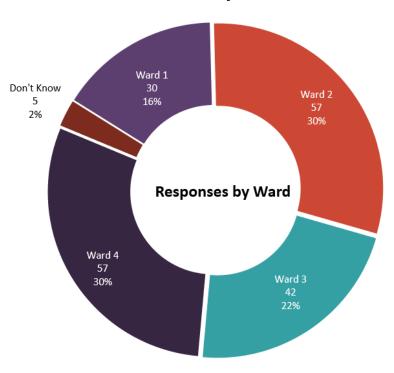


Table D-1
Which Ward Do You Live In?

Responses by Ward	Responses	Share	2020 Population Estimate	Participation Rate
Ward 1	30	16%	32,252	0.09%
Ward 2	57	30%	32,860	0.17%
Ward 3	42	22%	20,122	0.21%
Ward 4	57	30%	17,652	0.32%
Don't Know	5	3%	0	NA
Total Respondents	191	100%	102,886	0.19%



Figure D-2

Of the six Guiding Principles outlined, please indicate the two principles that you believe should be given the greatest priority as we look at assess and redesign the current ward makeup in Clarington.

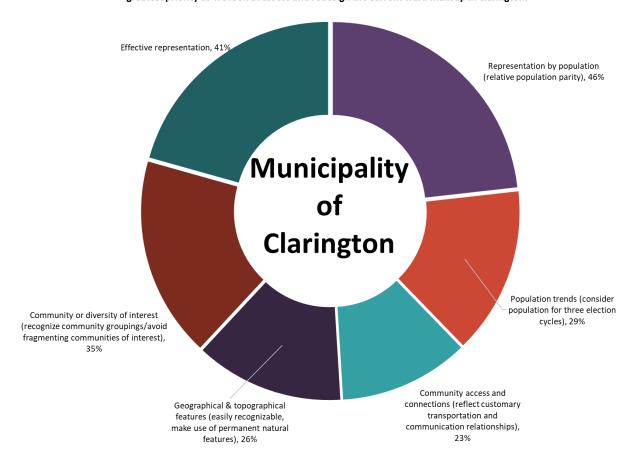
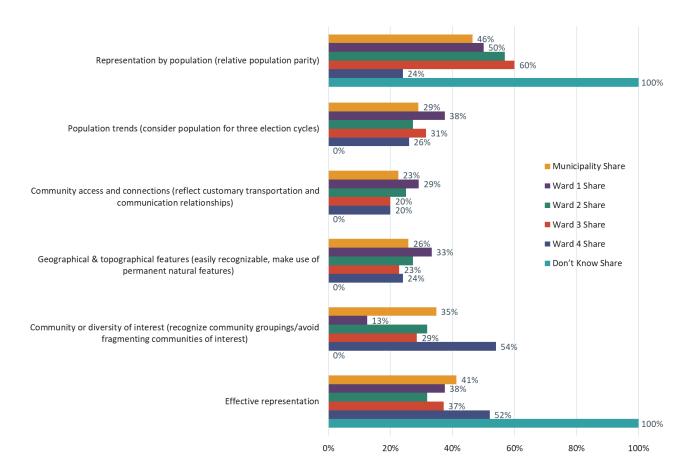


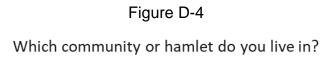


Figure D-3

Of the six Guiding Principles outlined, please indicate the two principles that you believe should be given the greatest priority as we look at assess and redesign the current ward makeup in Clarington.







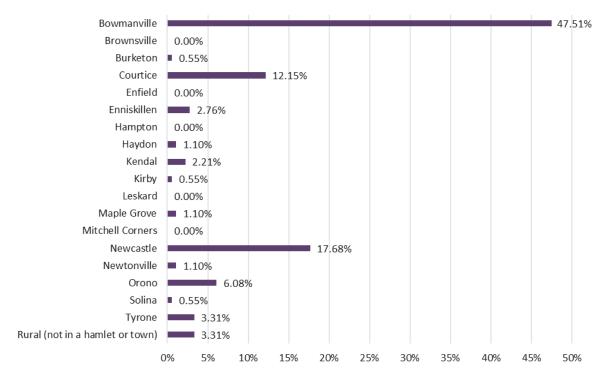
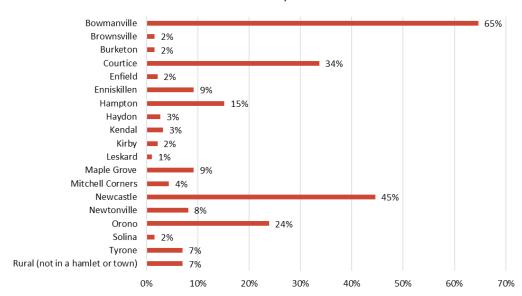




Figure D-5

Select up to three additional communities or hamlets in Clarington that you are connected to? (e.g. shopping, work, school)





### Municipality of Clarington Public Engagement Survey – Phase 2

Figure D-1

#### Q1 Which ward do you live in? (See map below for reference.)



Table D-2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Ward 1	16.67%	18
Ward 2	31.48%	34
Ward 3	20.37%	22
Ward 4	28.70%	31
Outside of Clarington	2.78%	3
Don't know	0.00%	0
TOTAL		108



Figure D-2

Q2 Using the guiding principles adopted by Council (and presented below) as a base, please rank the ward boundary reconfiguration options from 1 (favourite) to 4 (least favourite). Please refer to the maps and graphs or the Interim Report (linked below) for details on each option.

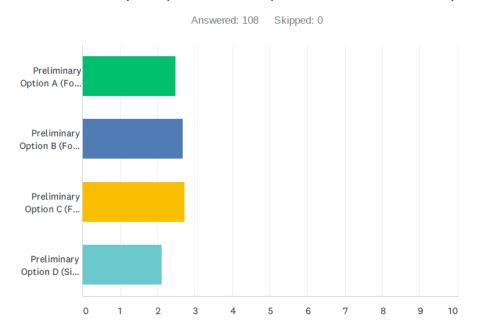


Table D-3

	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	SCORE
Preliminary Option A (Four wards, Bowmanville split into two wards)	19.44% 21	37.96% 41	14.81% 16	27.78% 30	108	2.49
Preliminary Option B (Four wards, Bowmanville remains in one ward)	29.63% 32	25.00% 27	28.70% 31	16.67% 18	108	2.68
Preliminary Option C (Five wards)	29.63% 32	26.85% 29	29.63% 32	13.89% 15	108	2.72
Preliminary Option D (Six wards)	21.30% 23	10.19% 11	26.85% 29	41.67% 45	108	2.11



Table D-4
Preliminary Option Preferences by Ward

	OPTION		RANKING				2225
			2	3	4	TOTAL	SCORE
	Preliminary Option A (Four wards, Bowmanville split into two wards)	27.8%	22.2%	22.2%	27.8%		
	Treinfilliary Option A (Four wards, Bowmanville split linto two wards)		4	4	5	18	2.50
WARD 1	Preliminary Option B (Four wards, Bowmanville remains in one ward)	27.8%	27.8%	27.8%	16.7%		
	Treiliminary Option B (Four wards, Bowmanville remains in one ward)	5	5	5	3	18	2.67
	Preliminary Option C (Five wards)	22.2%	44.4%	27.8%	5.6%		
	Training Sphore (Five Wards)	4	8	5	1	18	2.83
	Preliminary Option D (Six wards)	22.2%	5.6%	22.2%	50.0%		
	Training Sphort B (Six maras)	4	1	4	9	18	2.00
	Preliminary Option A (Four wards, Bowmanville split into two wards)	20.6%	47.1%	11.8%	20.6%		
7	Tomminary Option 71 (1 our wards, Downlarvino Spite into two wards)	7	16	4	7	34	2.68
	Preliminary Option B (Four wards, Bowmanville remains in one ward)	41.2%	23.5%	26.5%	8.8%		
	Tremminary Option B (Four wards, Bownianville remains in one ward)	14	8	9	3	34	2.97
WARD	Preliminary Option C (Five wards)	23.5%	23.5%	35.3%	17.6%		
	Training Space (1100 Wards)	8	8	12	6	34	2.53
	Preliminary Option D (Six wards)	14.7%	5.9%	26.5%	52.9%		
		5	2	9	18	34	1.82
	Preliminary Option A (Four wards, Bowmanville split into two wards)	13.6%	36.4%	9.1%	40.9%		
က	Temminary option / (1 our marde, Bowmantino opticinio the wardo)	3	8	2	9	22	2.23
	Preliminary Option B (Four wards, Bowmanville remains in one ward)	22.7%	22.7%	40.9%	13.6%		
WARD	Temminary option 5 (Four Warde, Sommarrine remains in one ward)	5	5	9	3	22	2.55
⋖	Preliminary Option C (Five wards)	45.5%	18.2%	31.8%	4.5%		
<b>S</b>	Training Space C (Fire Wards)	10	4	7	1	22	3.05
	Preliminary Option D (Six wards)	18.2%	22.7%	18.2%	40.9%		
	Training Sphort B (Six maras)	4	5	4	9	22	2.18
	Preliminary Option A (Four wards, Bowmanville split into two wards)	16.1%	38.7%	19.4%	25.8%		
4	Temminary option / (1 our marae, Bermannine opticime the warde)	5	12	6	8	31	2.45
	Preliminary Option B (Four wards, Bowmanville remains in one ward)	22.6%	25.8%	25.8%	25.8%		
WARD	Training of the state of the st	7	8	8	8	31	2.45
<b>₹</b>	Preliminary Option C (Five wards)	29.0%	29.0%	19.4%	22.6%		
<b>       </b>	( To Halab)	9	9	6	7	31	2.65
	Preliminary Option D (Six wards)	32.3%	6.5%	35.5%	25.8%		
		10	2	11	8	31	2.45



Figure D-3

Q4 Do you think Clarington's Council has the right number of Councillors?

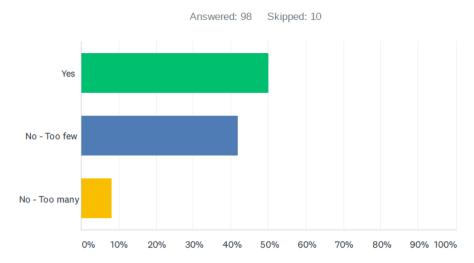


Table D-5

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	50.00%	49
No - Too few	41.84%	41
No - Too many	8.16%	8
TOTAL		98



Figure D-4

Q5 How did you hear about the Ward Boundary Review? Check all that apply.

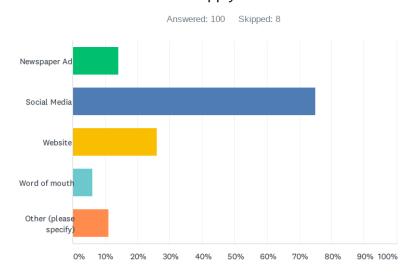


Table D-6

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Newspaper Ad	14.00%	14
Social Media	75.00%	75
Website	26.00%	26
Word of mouth	6.00%	6
Other (please specify)	11.00%	11
Total Respondents: 100		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Probus Newsletter	11/11/2020 9:06 AM
2	BOAA	11/10/2020 10:33 AM
3	Orono Times	11/3/2020 1:34 PM
4	Twitter	10/31/2020 6:27 PM
5	Social media	10/29/2020 12:27 PM
6	Facebook	10/28/2020 7:46 PM
7	Just doing my homework on the Municipality that I live in!	10/12/2020 10:47 AM
8	Newspaper story	10/5/2020 8:21 PM
9	Facebook	9/24/2020 8:32 AM
10	Email	9/23/2020 1:42 PM
11	Email from Municipality of Clarington News	9/22/2020 5:35 PM