

AMO CONFERENCE 2024

Delegation
Ministry of Infrastructure
August 18, 2024



*West
Grey*

westgrey.com/conferences



Welcome to West Grey

With a population of over 13,500, the Municipality of West Grey is the largest geographic municipality in Grey County (876 square kilometres), with the River Styx, Rocky Saugeen, Beatty Saugeen and South Saugeen rivers being the connecting links between our rural communities of Elmwood, Durham, Neustadt, and Ayton.

Our municipal government delivers key services to support our fast-growing population, including two water systems, two waste-water systems, and one storm management system; 104 bridges. The Municipality of West Grey also has many community centres, libraries, fire halls and other civic properties; municipal police services (West Grey Police); over 700 kilometres of roads, and 23 kilometres of sidewalks.

Like most rural municipalities across Ontario, managing and maintaining infrastructure is our biggest challenge. West Grey's large geographic footprint, coupled with a comparatively small population base, places our municipality (and many across Ontario) in a very precarious position to deal with our current infrastructure deficit.

According to the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario, it is estimated that 45.3 percent of provincial municipal assets are **not** in good repair. These numbers are very telling, and reflect the current situation in our rural municipality. West Grey is anticipating the need for over \$120 million capital investment in core infrastructure over the next 10 years. How do we begin to address this issue without a whole-of-government approach, and provincial investment support? To illustrate the funding challenge, a 1 percent increase in the West Grey municipal tax levy is equivalent to approximately \$131,000 in spending.

On behalf of our Council and our residents, the Municipality of West Grey looks forward to exploring innovative solutions, in partnership with, and the support of, the Province of Ontario, to ensure the long-term viability, sustainability, and efficient operations of our rural communities in West Grey, and indeed across the entire province.

Mayor Kevin Eccles

Roads

281 kilometres hard-topped

- 43 percent PCI index of poor

7 graders for gravel roads

- \$4.2 million asset value

11 tandem-axle plow trucks

- \$4.95 million asset value

Water & wastewater

Durham near capacity for water and waste water services

- Deficit for 668 proposed new homes slated for development

Water system upgrades to meet new demand

- Cost \$7.35 million

Unsuccessful HEWS funding application (Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund)

Sewage upgrades to support growth

- Cost \$12 million

Bridges & culverts

5 closed bridges

- Replacement cost \$10 million

5 bridges BCI rating below 59 (poor)

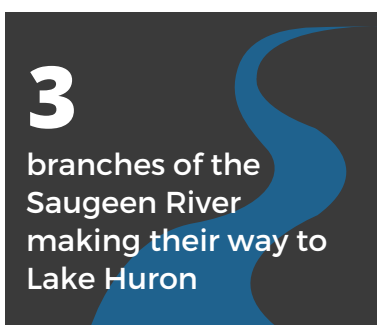
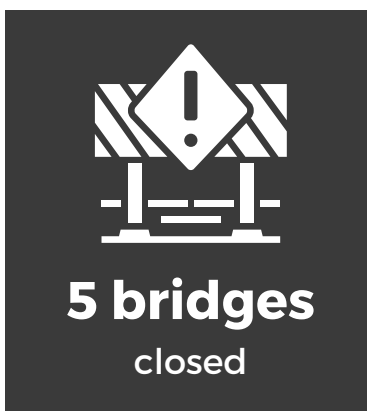
- Immediate repair cost \$10 million

13 bridges BCI rating below 69 (fair)

- Repair within 5 years – cost \$26 million

Waste management

- Circular Materials Ontario producer responsibility for “eligible” sources placing financial burdens on municipalities for processing “ineligible” sources.
- Implications for transition in 2025 municipal budget process required ASAP.
- Circular Materials Ontario tender process for collections has resulted in lack of competition in rural areas.



Seeking support from the Ministry of Infrastructure

- Implement sustainable, long-term, infrastructure funding for rural municipalities (in addition to OCIF and OMPF).
- Consultation with HEWSF staff to review unsupported HEWS application and provide guidance and priority assessment for newly opened funding window.
- Amend O. Reg. 391/21: Blue Box so that producers are responsible for end-of-life management or recycling products from all sources.
- Review policies of Circular Materials Ontario to encourage a more competitive process for tendering rural waste collection.



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