

The background of the slide is a photograph of a two-story brick building. The building has a prominent arched entrance on the ground floor. Above the arch is a coat of arms. To the left, a Canadian flag flies on a tall pole. The building has several windows, some with arched tops. The sky is clear and blue.

Township of Brock Ward Boundary Review (WBR)

Public Consultation
Dr. Robert Williams & Jack Ammendolia



What Will Be Covered in This Information Session?

Why a Ward
Boundary
Review?

Legislative
Framework &
the Review
Process

Preliminary
Issues

Initial
Assessment

Preliminary
Ward
Boundary
Options

Public
Participation

What Are We Trying to Figure Out?



How well does the present ward boundary structure serve the citizens of Brock?

Do the current wards provide fair and effective representation?

Would a reconfigured ward system provide better representation for the citizens of Brock?

Context



Township of Brock created under the Regional Municipality of Durham Act

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Made up of former Townships of Brock and Thorah, the Village of Beaverton, the Village of Cannington, and the dissolution of the Police Village of Sunderland

1973

Ward boundary structure from 1973 remains intact

-

*Despite population growth of about 40%,
the ward boundaries in place are nearly
50 years old*

2020

**Council
Structure:**
6 Councillors
(1 Regional + 1 for each of the
5 wards)

WHY A WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW?

To prepare Brock Council to make decisions on whether to maintain the existing ward structure or to adopt an alternative arrangement

Brock Ward Boundary Review



The primary purpose of the study is to prepare Brock Council to make decisions on whether to maintain the existing ward structure or to adopt an alternative arrangement

- Brock's representation on Durham Regional Council is set at two for 2022 (Mayor & one Regional Councillor, both elected at-large).
- Brock is divided into five wards and each elects one local Councillor.
- These arrangements have been in place since Brock Township was formed in 1973 —almost 50 years ago.

Legislative Framework



Ontario's *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes a lower-tier municipality to:

- change the size of the Council
- determine how Council (other than the Mayor) will be elected
- “divide or re-divide the municipality into wards or dissolve the existing wards”

No stipulated schedule, standardized process or established criteria exist for electoral reviews in Ontario

- Each municipality must set its own terms, parameters, guiding principles, etc.
- A review is typically framed by established procedures and principles applied in several Ontario municipalities and by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) and judicial rulings on representation

Review Process



Guiding Principles



A **ward-based** electoral system should reflect these core principles:

- 1 Representation by Population
- 2 Population and Electoral Trends
- 3 Representation of Communities of Interest
- 4 Geographical and Topographical Features
- 5 Effective Representation

Representation by Population

Optimal Population



| Symbol | Description | Variance | 2020 Population Range | 2030 Population Range |
|--------|--------------------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| OR+ | Outside Range - High | 25% | >3,443 | >3,925 |
| O+ | Above Optimal | 5% | 2,892 - 3,443 | 3,297 - 3,925 |
| O | Optimal Population Range | - | 2,617 - 2,892 | 2,983 - 3,297 |
| O- | Below Optimal | -5% | 2,066 - 2,617 | 2,355 - 2,983 |
| OR- | Outside Range - Low | -25% | <2,066 | <2,355 |

2020 Optimal Population: 2,755

2030 Optimal Population: 3,140

Initial Assessment



The WBR begins with an assessment of the present ward system to determine whether it constitutes an equitable and effective electoral arrangement (i.e. “effective representation”) to the residents of the Township

- If there are shortcomings, the Consultants will present alternatives for consideration.



Initial Assessment



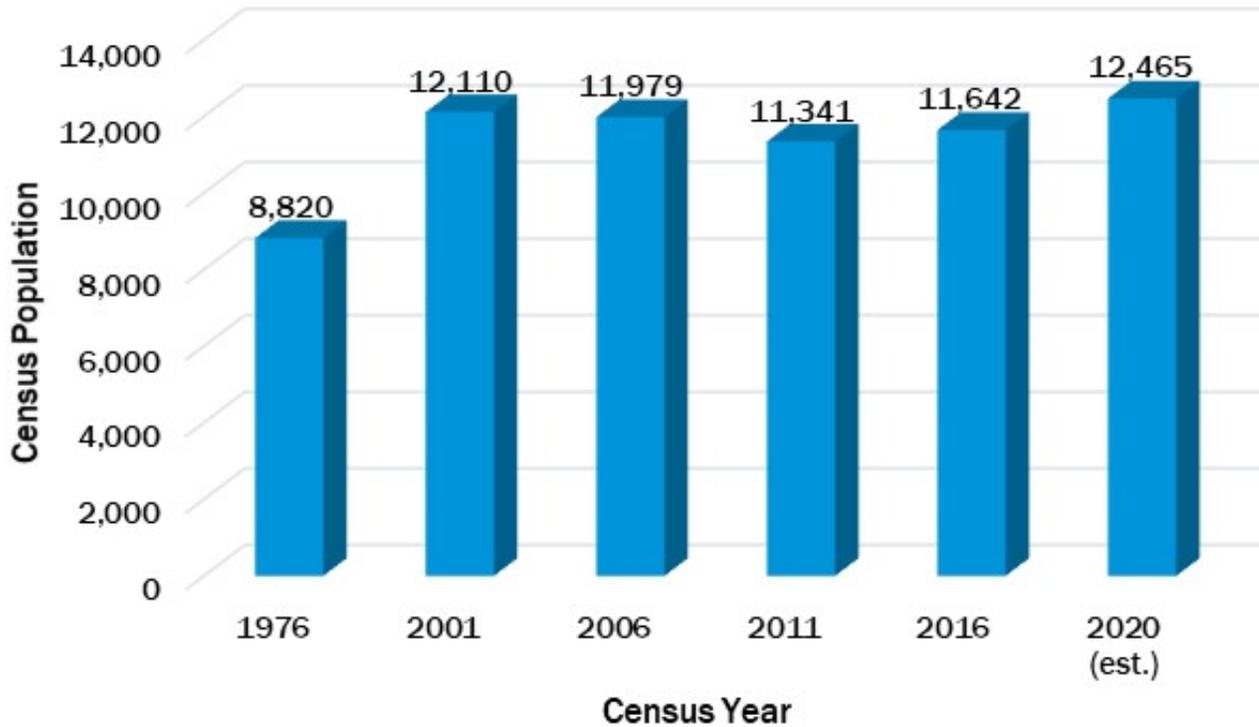
Preliminary assessment of the present ward system suggests:

- Present wards fail to adhere to the representation by population principle and disparities are expected to worsen through the next three election cycles
- Including seasonal populations helps balance the existing ward populations, but projected growth will upset this balance by 2030.

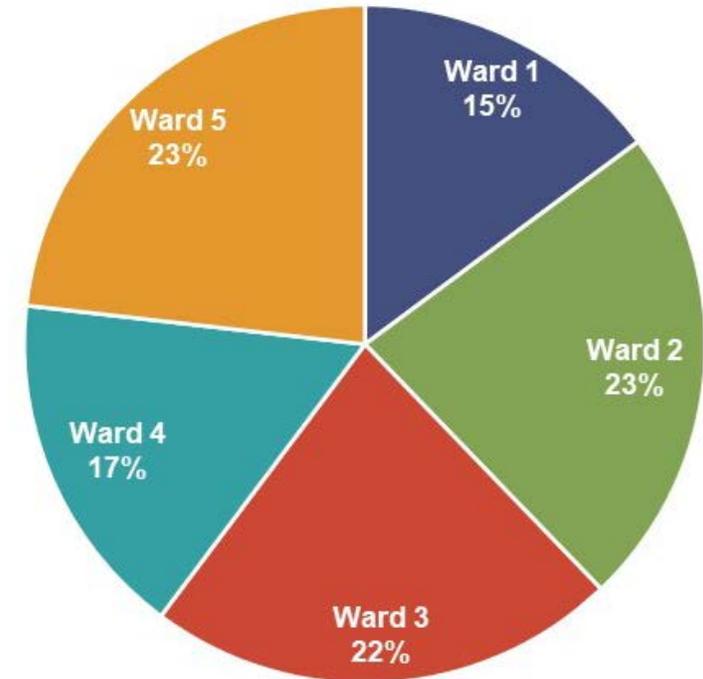
Population Trend and Distribution



Permanent Population



Permanent Population Share by Ward 2020 (est.)



Projected Population Parity



Permanent Population

| Ward | Permanent Population 2020 | Variance | | Permanent Population 2030 | Variance | |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | 1,847 | 74% | OR - | 1,829 | 65% | OR - |
| 2 | 2,867 | 115% | O + | 4,209 | 149% | OR + |
| 3 | 2,792 | 112% | O + | 2,637 | 94% | O - |
| 4 | 2,070 | 83% | O - | 1,916 | 68% | OR - |
| 5 | 2,889 | 116% | O + | 3,493 | 124% | O + |
| Total | 12,465 | Optimal | 2,493 | 14,084 | Optimal | 2,817 |

Projected Population Parity



Including Seasonal & Undercount

| Ward | Total Population 2020 | Variance | | Total Population 2030 | Variance | |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | 2,463 | 89% | O - | 2,626 | 84% | O - |
| 2 | 2,970 | 108% | O + | 4,381 | 140% | OR + |
| 3 | 2,880 | 105% | O + | 2,716 | 86% | O - |
| 4 | 2,479 | 90% | O - | 2,365 | 75% | O - |
| 5 | 2,978 | 108% | O + | 3,612 | 115% | O + |
| Total | 13,770 | Optimal | 2,754 | 15,700 | Optimal | 3,140 |

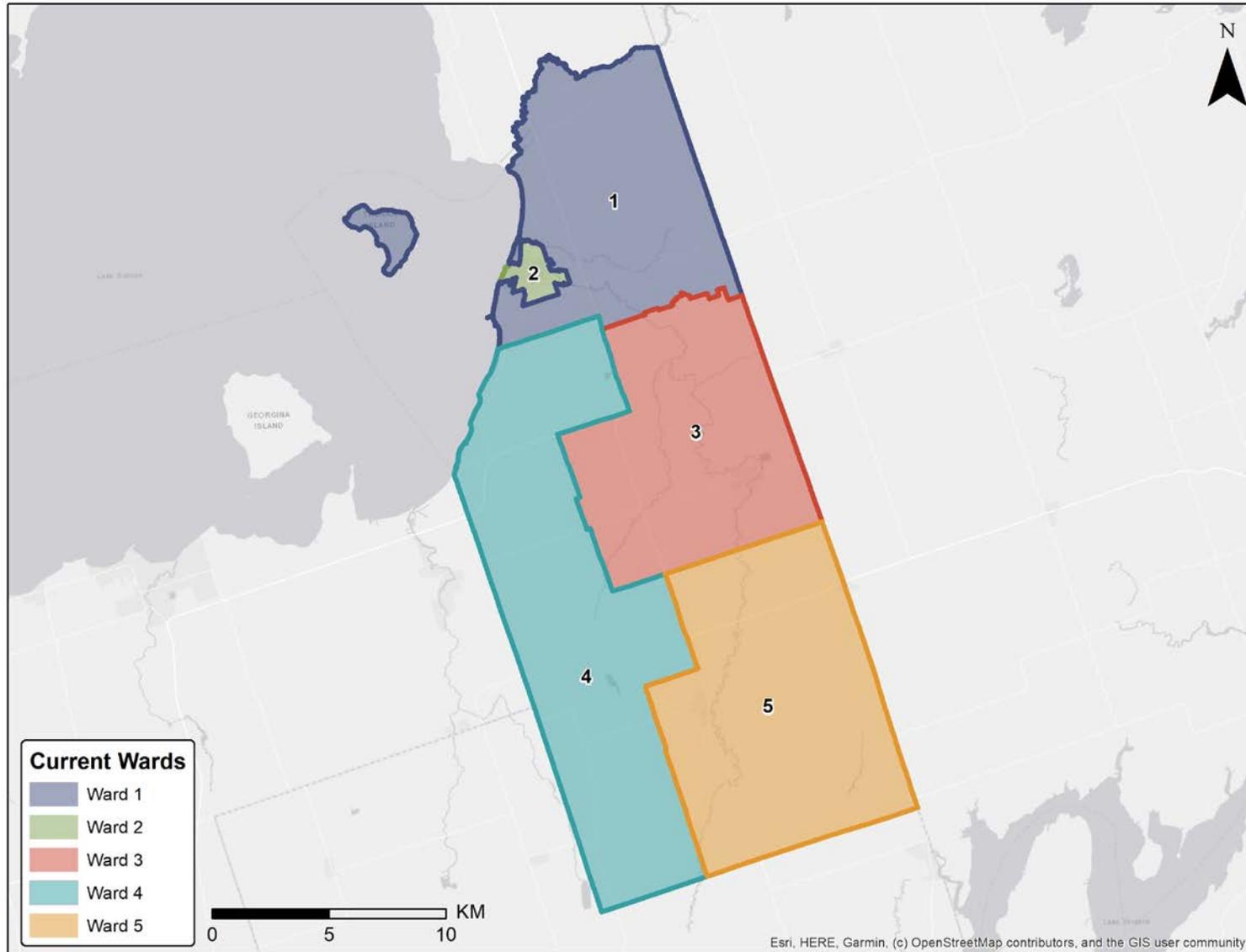
Initial Assessment (cont'd)



Preliminary assessment of the present ward system suggests:

- Present wards fail to adhere to the representation by population principle and disparities are expected to worsen through the next three election cycles.
- Including seasonal populations helps balance the existing ward populations, but projected growth will upset this balance by 2030.
- The populations in Wards 2, 3, and 5 are disproportionately large—these are where the population centres of Beaverton, Cannington, and Sunderland are located.
- Not all wards have plausible groupings of communities of interest.
- Some ward boundaries are difficult to identify and in some cases, notional.
- The representation of urban and rural dwellers is unevenly distributed across wards; Wards 1 & 4 are predominantly rural, Ward 2 is urban, and Wards 3 & 5 are mixed.

Existing Ward Map





Overarching principle of “effective representation” means:

- each resident should have comparable access to their elected representative
- each Local Councillor should speak on behalf of an equal number of residents

Do the existing wards achieve effective representation?

Do the Wards Need to Be Changed?

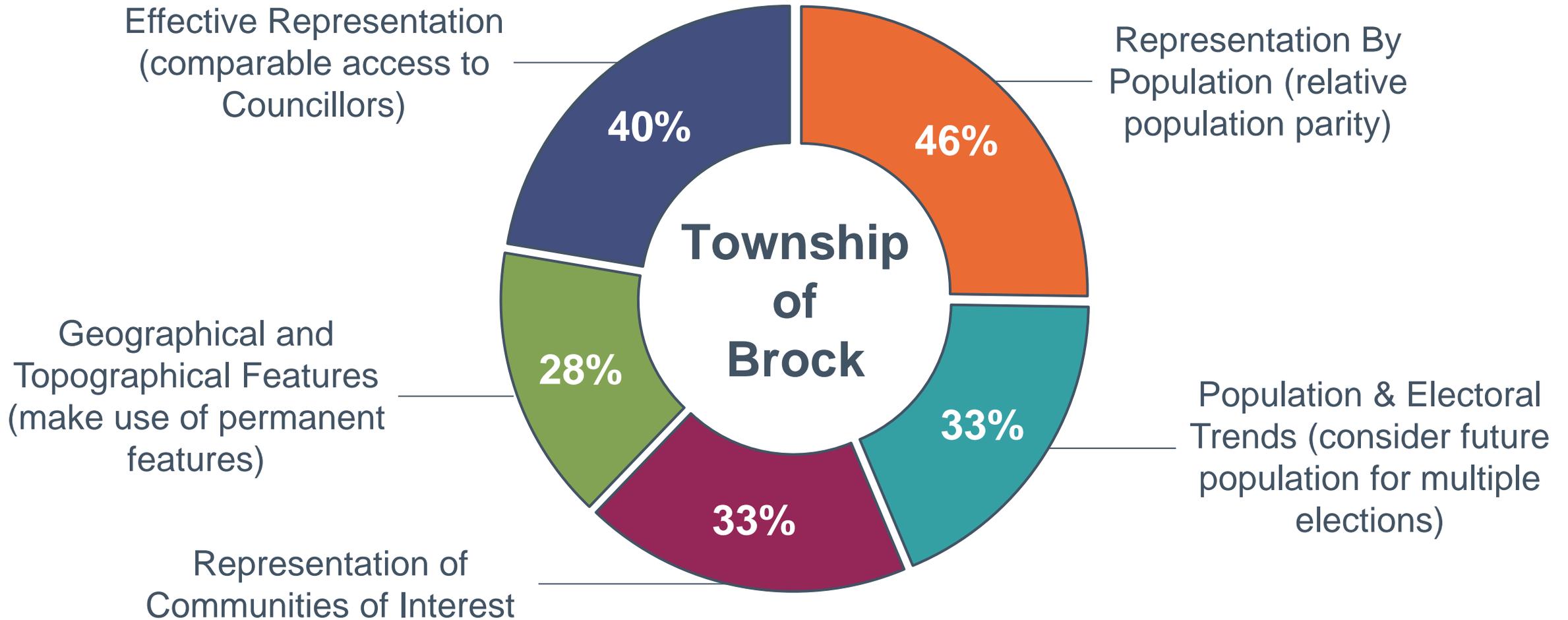


YES

The wards do not provide “effective representation” based on the core principles.

- Preliminary alternatives to “re-divide” the municipality have been developed considering quantitative and qualitative data, case law, successful models adopted in other municipalities and the core principles.
- No ward system design can **uniformly** meet all the core principles, especially with the unique challenges in Brock: the population concentration in the three major settlements, large rural areas, concentrated future growth and seasonal population fluctuations.

What Should an Alternative System Look Like?



Further Considerations



Brock is unique:

- several historically recognized population centres of varying sizes;
- the concentration of population in three urban centres;
- future growth will be largely concentrated in one area; and
- a robust seasonal population.

**The characteristics just noted will not change;
what could change is the configuration of the wards.**

Preliminary Options



Four preliminary ward options have been prepared for review.

Preliminary Option 1: Minimal change to wards 3, 4 and 5 while wards 1 and 2 have been re-configured into 2 new wards. Provides identifiable boundaries and addresses population distribution and growth, however, Beaverton is divided into 2 wards.

Preliminary Option 2: Largely successful in distributing population and growth more evenly across the wards (with one exception) and ensuring that most wards are anchored by important settlement areas or communities.

Preliminary Option 3: This option focuses on the retention of a single ward to represent Beaverton and places Cannington and Sunderland at the centre of surrounding rural areas. The resultant population distribution varies significantly.

Preliminary Option 4: This option, like Option 3, focuses on communities of interest. This option includes a more compact single ward in Beaverton and two primarily rural wards.

Next Steps



The Public Consultation has and will contribute to:

1

An opportunity for the Consultant team to better understand Brock

2

An understanding of the preferences of members of the public who choose to participate in the Review

3

A recommendation to Council of final ward boundary reconfiguration options

Your Contribution to This Review

Public Engagement

- Be willing to ask questions at the open house and through the Township's website
- Read the Interim Report and other materials on the Township's website to better understand the issues under consideration
- Complete the survey on the Township's website



Questions?