Township of Springwater
2024 Ward Boundary Review

Township of **Springwater**

Public Information Session
2024 Ward Boundary Review

Spring 2024
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Decision

We want to hear from you!

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www.springwater.ca/wbr

Watson
& Associates
ECONOMISTS LTD.

Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

In association with Dr. Robert J. Williams

Public Information Session | 2024

Project Overview and Objectives

The Township of Springwater has retained Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. in association with Dr. Robert J. Williams to undertake the 2024 Ward Boundary Review.

The primary purpose of the Ward Boundary Review is to prepare Municipal Council to make decisions about whether to maintain the existing ward structure or to adopt an alternative arrangement.

Key Objectives Include:

- 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 the Township of Springwater, based on the principles identified.

Existing Council Structure

Mayor & Deputy Mayor
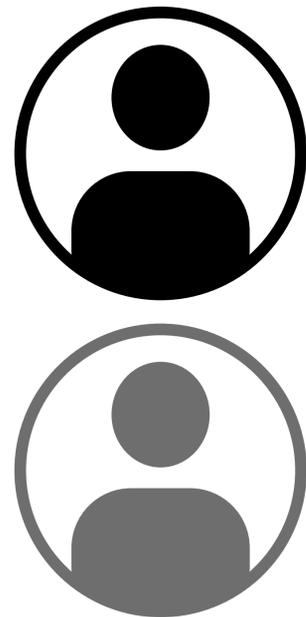
1 Councillor for Each Ward (x5)

+

🍃 Both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected at-large and serve on both local and county council.
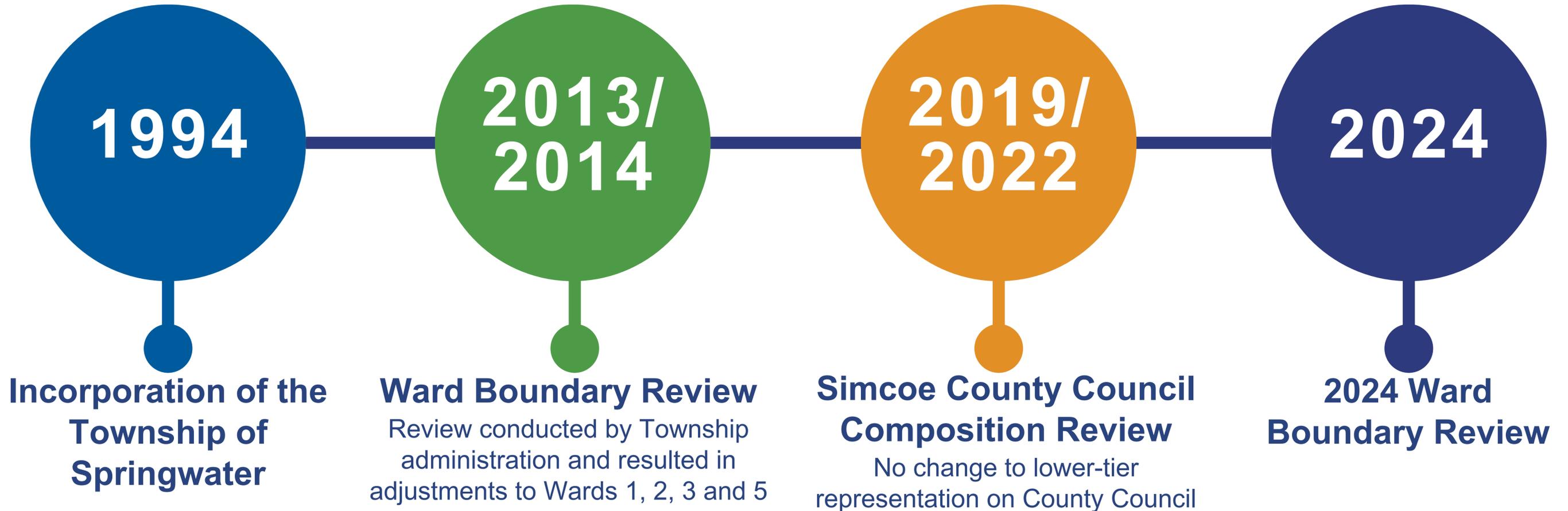
🍃 The minimum size for council of a local municipality in Ontario is five (5), "one of whom shall be the head of council" (mayor).

Guiding Principles

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

REPRESENTATION BY POPULATION
Ensure that residents are equitably represented, have comparable access to their elected representative, and the wards have reasonably equal population totals.

POPULATION AND ELECTORAL TRENDS
Take account of anticipated population growth in Springwater, specifically over a two-election cycle (2026, 2030) and beyond.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION AND ACCESSIBILITY
Wards should group existing neighbourhoods to reflect current transportation and communication patterns.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES AS BOUNDARIES
Ward boundaries will be drawn impartially and with consideration for natural and man-made features within the Township of Springwater that may serve as effective internal boundaries.

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST
Consider residential and commercial clusters but also geographic, social, historical, economic, and/or cultural factors, including the identifiable rural and agricultural component of the Township of Springwater.

ENSURING EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION
The five articulated principles contribute to achieving the over-arching principle of effective representation.

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Township of Springwater
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www.springwater.ca/wbr

Township of Springwater

History

1994

2013/ 2014

2019/ 2022

2024

Incorporation of the Township of Springwater

Ward Boundary Review
Review conducted by Township administration and resulted in adjustments to Wards 1, 2, 3 and 5

Simcoe County Council Composition Review
No change to lower-tier representation on County Council

2024 Ward Boundary Review

Mayor & Deputy Mayor
(elected at-large and represent the Township on County Council)

5 Local Councillors
(1 per ward)

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Legislative Framework

Ontario's *Municipal Act,* 2001 authorizes a lower-tier municipality to:	No stipulated schedule, standardized process or established criteria exist for electoral reviews in Ontario
• Define 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"	• 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 Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) and judicial rulings on representation)

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Township of Springwater
Existing Wards

Legend
- Settlement Areas

Existing Wards
- Ward 1
- Ward 2
- Ward 3
- Ward 4
- Ward 5

Existing Ward Configuration

Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?[1]	Comment
Representation by Population	No	Only one ward is at the optimal point and one ward exceeds the ±25% range of variation.
Population and Electoral Trends	No	Population growth will not overcome the existing population imbalance. All wards fall outside the ±25% range of variation over the long term.
Means of Communication and Accessibility	Largely Successful	Four wards are generally plausible groupings of communities; one is not
Geographical and Topographical features	No	Most boundaries are irregular and/or invisible lines.
Community or Diversity of Interests	Largely Successful	One ward includes questionable groupings of communities.
Effective Representation	No	Population imbalances and irregular boundaries hinder the achievement of effective representation.

Ward	2024			2034		
	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	3,990	0.82	O-	5,310	0.67	OR-
Ward 2	3,890	0.80	O-	5,580	0.70	OR-
Ward 3	4,750	0.98	O	4,480	0.56	OR-
Ward 4	7,660	1.58	OR+	12,820	1.62	OR+
Ward 5	4,010	0.83	O-	11,480	1.45	OR+
Total/Average	24,300	4,860		39,680	7,934	

O	±5% of the Optimal (Average) Population
O-	±5%-25% of the Optimal (Average) Population
OR-	>±25% of the Optimal (Average) Population

Township of Springwater
2024 Ward Boundary Review
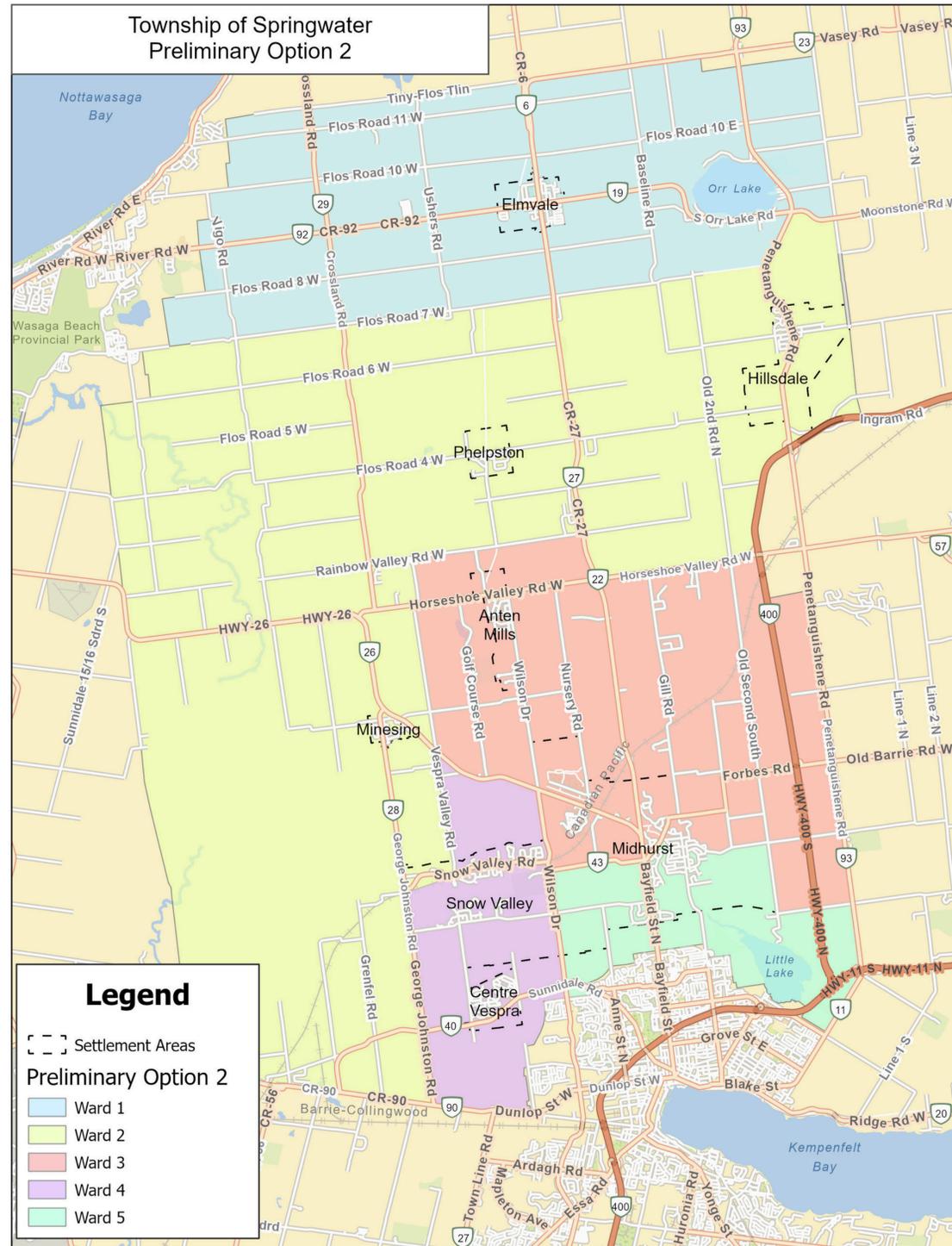
Township of Springwater
Preliminary Option 1

Legend

- Settlement Areas

Preliminary Option 1
- Ward 1
- Ward 2
- Ward 3
- Ward 4
- Ward 5
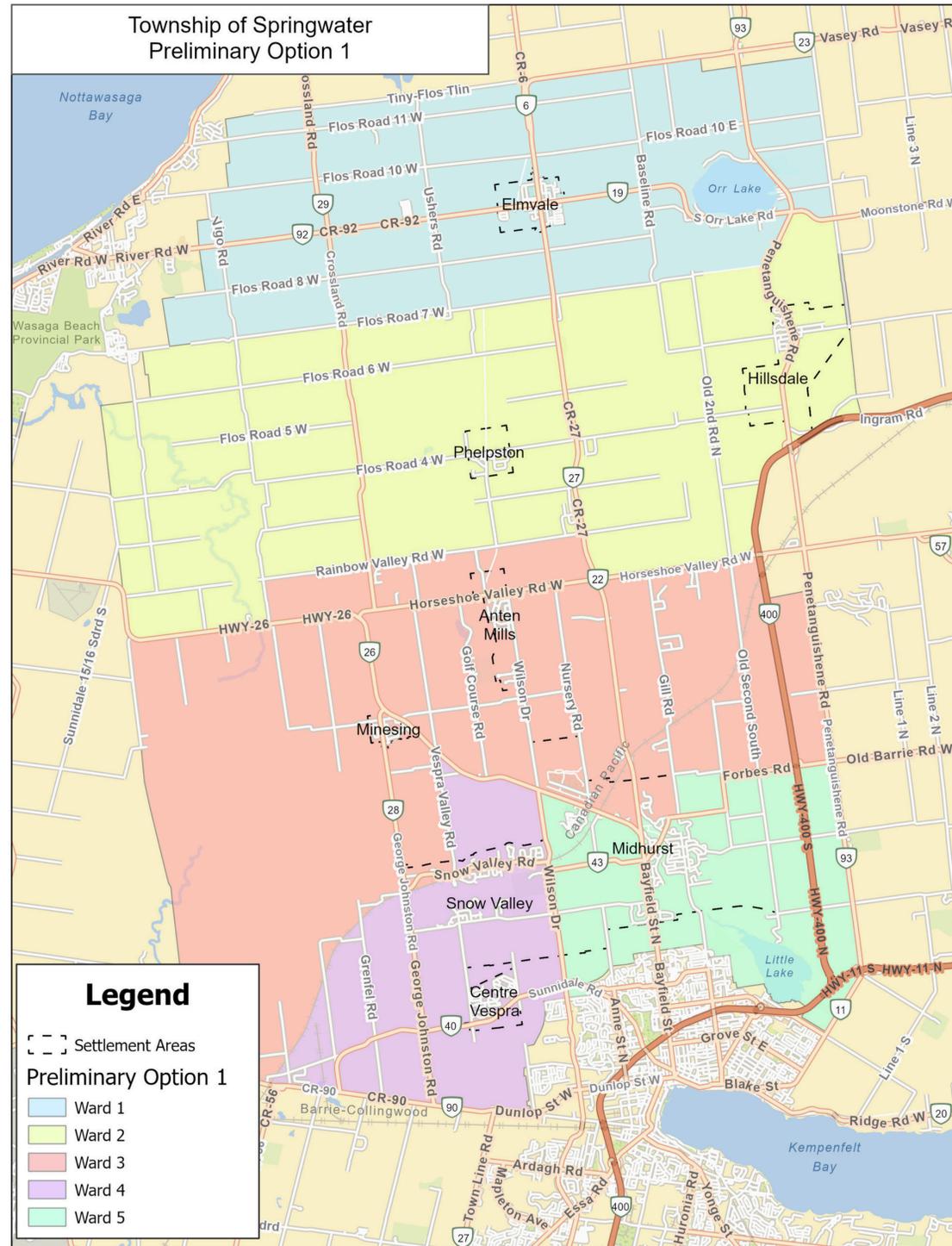
Preliminary Option 1

Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?[1]	Comment
Representation by Population	Largely Successful	Two of the five wards are within the optimal range (±5) with one ward (Ward 2 falling just outside the acceptable range.
Population and Electoral Trends	No	Population growth will result in four of the five wards not within the acceptable range and does not meet the future population principle.
Means of Communication and Accessibility	Largely Successful	Wards are generally plausible groupings of communities.
Geographical and Topographical features	Yes	Boundaries are identifiable and follow visible lines.
Community or Diversity of Interests	Yes	Wards contain coherent communities of interest.
Effective Representation	Largely Successful	Future population imbalances hinder the achievement of total effective representation.

Ward	2024			2034		
	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	4,970	1.02	O	6,180	0.78	O-
Ward 2	3,440	0.71	OR-	5,190	0.65	OR-
Ward 3	4,950	1.02	O	4,650	0.59	OR-
Ward 4	5,430	1.12	O+	5,690	0.72	OR-
Ward 5	5,510	1.13	O+	17,970	2.26	OR+
Total/Average	24,300	4,860		39,680	7,936	

O	±5% of the Optimal (Average) Population
O-	±5%-25% of the Optimal (Average) Population
OR-	>±25% of the Optimal (Average) Population

Preliminary Option 2

Township of Springwater
Preliminary Option 2

Legend
- Settlement Areas

Preliminary Option 2
- Ward 1
- Ward 2
- Ward 3
- Ward 4
- Ward 5

Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?[1]	Comment
Representation by Population	Largely Successful	All wards fall within 15% of the optimal size with Ward 1 within the optimal population range.
Population and Electoral Trends	Partially Successful	Population growth will result in two of the five wards not within the acceptable range and does not fully meet the future population principle.
Means of Communication and Accessibility	Largely Successful	Wards are generally plausible groupings of communities.
Geographical and Topographical features	Yes	Boundaries are identifiable and follow visible lines.
Community or Diversity of Interests	Yes	Wards contain coherent communities of interest.
Effective Representation	Largely Successful	Future population imbalances hinder the achievement of total effective representation.

Ward	2024			2034		
	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	4,970	1.02	O	6,180	0.78	O-
Ward 2	5,500	1.13	O+	7,010	0.88	O-
Ward 3	4,280	0.88	O-	11,910	1.50	OR+
Ward 4	5,180	1.07	O+	5,470	0.69	OR-
Ward 5	4,380	0.90	O-	9,110	1.15	O+
Total/Average	24,300	4,860		39,680	7,936	

O	±5% of the Optimal (Average) Population
O-	±5%-25% of the Optimal (Average) Population
OR-	>±25% of the Optimal (Average) Population

Township of Springwater
Preliminary Option 3

Legend

Settlement Areas

Preliminary Option 3
- Ward 1
- Ward 2
- Ward 3
- Ward 4
- Ward 5
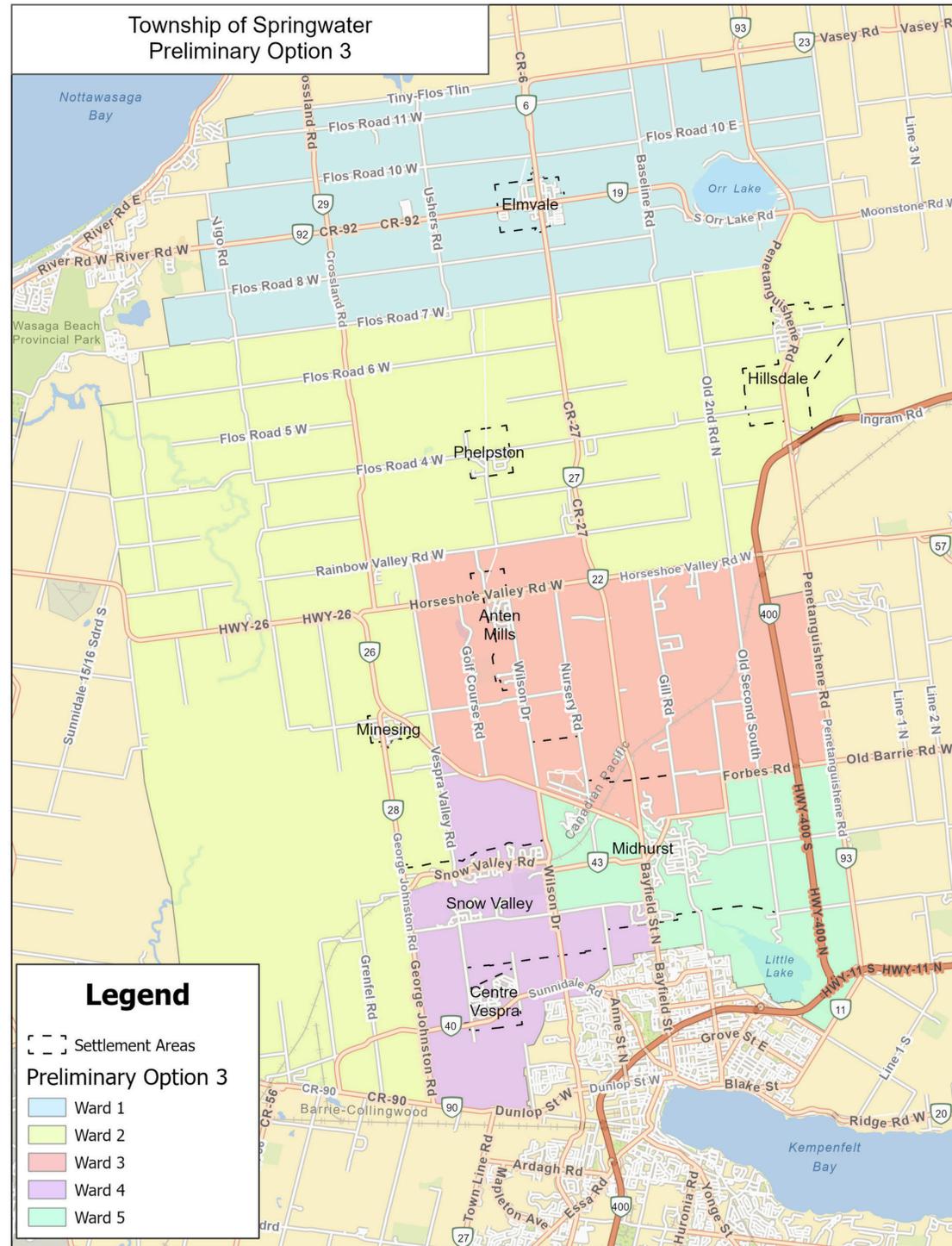
Preliminary Option 3

Principle	Does the Current Ward Structure Meet the Respective Principle?[1]	Comment
Representation by Population	Largely Successful	Four wards fall within 15% of the optimal size, with two of the four falling within the optimal range. Ward 3 falls outside the acceptable population range but is expected to contain future growth.
Population and Electoral Trends	Largely Successful	Population growth will result in one of the five wards not within the acceptable range but the growth located in northern Midhurst will bring Ward 3 into parity.
Means of Communication and Accessibility	Largely Successful	Wards are generally plausible groupings of communities.
Geographical and Topographical features	Yes	Boundaries are identifiable and follow visible lines.
Community or Diversity of Interests	Yes	Wards contain coherent communities of interest.
Effective Representation	Largely Successful	Future population imbalances hinder the achievement of total effective representation.

Ward	2024			2034		
	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range	Total Population	Population Variance	Optimal Range
Ward 1	4,970	1.02	O	6,180	0.78	O-
Ward 2	5,500	1.13	O+	7,010	0.88	O-
Ward 3	3,220	0.66	OR-	8,600	1.08	O+
Ward 4	5,580	1.15	O+	6,940	0.87	O-
Ward 5	5,040	1.04	O	10,940	1.38	OR+
Total/Average	24,300	4,860		39,680	7,936	

O	±5% of the Optimal (Average) Population
O-	±5%-25% of the Optimal (Average) Population
OR-	>±25% of the Optimal (Average) Population

Evaluation Summary

Principle	Current Structure	Preliminary Option 1	Preliminary Option 2	Preliminary Option 3
Representation by Population	No	Largely Successful	Largely Successful	Largely Successful
Population and Electoral Trends	No	No	Partially Successful	Largely Successful
Means of Communication and Accessibility	Largely Successful	Largely Successful	Largely Successful	Largely Successful
Geographical and Topographical features	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Community or Diversity of Interests	Largely Successful	Yes	Yes	Yes
Effective Representation	No	Largely Successful	Largely Successful	Largely Successful

Levels of evaluation for how the Guiding Principles are met

Yes	Largely successful	Partially Successful	No

Higher Rating ← → Lower Rating