The Town of Wasaga Beach invites you to participate in the Official Plan Review. By providing your input and ideas, you can help to shape the future of your community.

What is an Official Plan?

An Official Plan is a forward-looking document that describes the community’s long-term vision and sets out goals and policies for directing land use and development, and guides decision-making by Town Council. All by-laws passed and all public works undertaken by the Town must conform to the Official Plan.

The Official Plan does the following:

• Sets out the criteria to be considered for all development proposals to promote positive community growth and improvement.
• Provides direction for the future location, type and density of housing, business and industry, tourism and economic development, protection of the natural environment, managing population and growth, planning of roads and infrastructure, the provision of parks and community facilities, urban design and other matters.

Summary of Draft Vision and Goals

Vision and Goals have been drafted to reflect ideas expressed at the visioning workshop and other consultations held in 2017.

Vision…

“Wasaga Beach is a complete community offering a high quality of life for all ages, with unique character and a mix of eclectic places that shape memorable experiences.”

Goals…

• Support complete community development that allows for a variety of housing, jobs, services, facilities and amenities.
• Direct and focus higher density and mixed-use growth and intensification to nodes and corridors.
• Foster inclusive neighbourhoods that provide a wide various housing types and tenure.
• Provide efficient and safe movement of people and goods while offering choice and convenience.
• Support and encourage opportunities to engage in year-round uses/businesses.
• Protect and enhance Wasaga Beach’s many natural heritage features, parks and conservation areas.
• Support community-based events and initiatives.
• Direct development away from natural and human-made hazard areas.
• Foster a sense of local identity by encouraging development that recognizes the history and unique character of the area.
• Implement phasing of new services and optimize efficient use of existing infrastructure in a financially responsible and environmentally sustainable manner.
How is Wasaga Beach Expected to Grow?

Forecasts of future population and employment have been set for Wasaga Beach by the Province and the County to the year 2031. The Town is required to use these forecasts for determining how much land can be designated for the development of new housing, businesses and other urban development.

Over the past 25 years, Wasaga Beach has more than tripled in population. Throughout this period of growth, tourism has been a significant economic driver for the Town. Although the role of tourism will remain important, it is expected that with ongoing population and employment growth expected to the year 2031 and beyond there may be a shift in the local economy resulting in a more completed and balanced community.

The new Official Plan will assist in renewing the community’s vision and help reshape the direction of future growth. As key areas for intensification and public and private investment, redevelopment will primarily be focused in nodes and corridors, where appropriate.

How are Wasaga Beach Commercial, Retail & Tourism Areas Expected to Grow?

Several existing commercial areas have room for growth. Increasing the flexibility of specific commercial areas could be considered to diversify the mix of uses within the community.

Opportunities for growth and development also remain in tourism-designated areas. In some instances, the conversion of tourism accommodation uses to residential uses may be desirable. However, the priorities for growth and development in tourism areas are likely to focus on the introduction of year-round activities, improved accommodation, diversification of food services and improved transportation.

Questions to consider…

Where should future commercial/tourism growth be located?

What types of commercial and/or tourism development is needed in Wasaga Beach?

What other uses and services are needed to support this growth?

More Information and Opportunities to Participate

The full Commercial, Retail and Tourism Discussion paper can be found on the Town’s webpage: https://www.wasagabeach.com/town-hall/planning-development

More opportunities are coming up to provide your input to the Town’s Official Plan Review. Take our online survey and/or attend our Drop-in Information Centre and Visioning Workshop to be held on March 6th, 2019 at the RecPLex, drop-in between 3:00 to 8:00pm. Or submit comments in writing to:

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YEAR | POPULATION
---|---
2006 | 15,234
2011 | 17,537
2016 | 20,675
2031 | 27,500