



**LEGISLATIVE AND  
COURT SERVICES  
MEMORANDUM**

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**TO: MAYOR A. NUTTALL AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**FROM: W. COOKE, CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AND COURT SERVICES**

**WARD: ALL**

**NOTED: D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

**M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**RE: AMENDMENT TO NOTICE BY-LAW 2017-017**

**DATE: NOVEMBER 22, 2023**

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The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update concerning amendments that are required to the Notice By-law 2017-017 given that there is no longer a printed newspaper of general circulation in the City of Barrie.

A memorandum from C. Harris, Associate Director of Communications and Customer Service advised that on September 15, 2023 Metroland Media announced that it would be moving to a digital only platform and no longer producing printed newspapers. At the time of this decision, Metroland Media was the last printed newspaper of general circulation distributed in the City of Barrie.

Under Section 270 of the *Municipal Act*, a municipality has the ability to adopt and maintain policies with respect to the circumstances to which the municipality shall provide notice to the public together with the form, manner and times the notice shall be given. City Council passed Notice By-law 2017-017 on March 27, 2017 to support various communication methods to notify members of the public. The By-law identifies four classifications of notice with different mechanisms for the provision of each class notice including newspapers, the City's website or agendas, and personal notice to an individual or limited number of people.

Currently the Notice By-law does not provide for digital circulations, as in the past this method of communicating notice hasn't been identified in legislation. Staff held discussions with representatives at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing with respect to notices required under the *Planning Act* and other Acts including notice of the intention to pass certain by-laws, notice of the holding of certain required public meetings and notice of other matters related to development applications. Changes to the By-law are required to support digital circulation of required notifications that were previously published through placing an advertisement in the newspaper, while other alternatives for the provision of notice to the community are explored.

Included on the City Council Agenda for November 22, 2023 is a by-law to amend the Notice By-law. The amendment would add the reference for "digital circulation" wherever "newspaper" is noted in the by-law as an additional method to provide notice. All the notice requirements would remain the same unless changed through legislation or future by-law amendments. Future decisions of Council with respect to options for communications with the community will inform any further amendments to the Notice By-law.