

2013 City of Barrie
Ward Boundary
Review

**General Committee of Council
May 27, 2013**

**Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.
in association with
Dr. Robert J. Williams**

Introduction

- the City of Barrie retained Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. and Dr. Robert J. Williams to prepare a comprehensive Ward Boundary Review
- overall goal: develop “an effective and equitable system of representation with reference to overall projected growth within the municipality”
- revised ward structure to be in place for the 2014 municipal election, applicable for 2018 election and beyond, if feasible

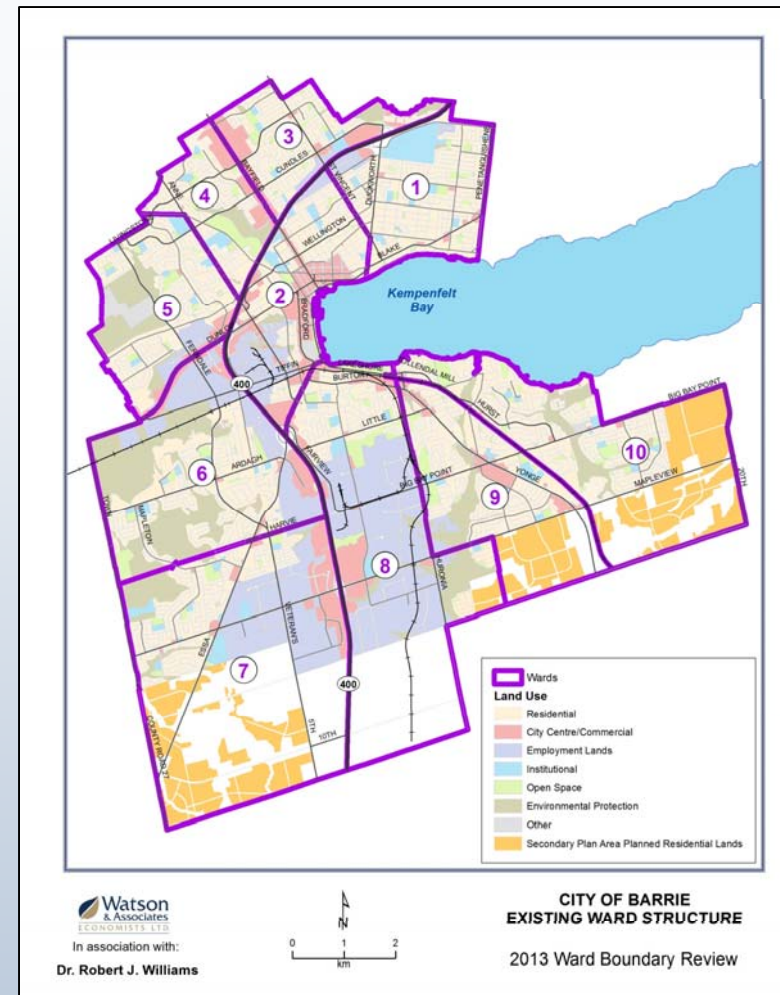
Principles

The 2013 Ward Boundary Review in Barrie “will have regard for the following principles”:

- ✓ Representation by Population
- ✓ Population and Electoral Trends
- ✓ Means of Communication and Accessibility
- ✓ Geographic and Topographical Features
- ✓ Community or Diversity of Interests
- ✓ Effective Representation

Present Ward Structure – significant changes to structure of City since its adoption

- implemented for 2003 municipal election
- 2002 population $\pm 109,000$
- 2013 population $\pm 137,000$
- Bill 196, the *Barrie-Innisfil Boundary Adjustment Act, 2009*, resulted in annexation of a portion of the Town of Innisfil to the City of Barrie



Forecast Population Growth

- City of Barrie's population is forecast to increase from 137,000 in 2013 to 167,000 by 2022, an increase of approximately 30,000 over the period.
- Existing urban area is approaching buildout – limited opportunities for further greenfield development.
- A significant share of forecast population growth is anticipated to be accommodated within the South Barrie Annexed lands

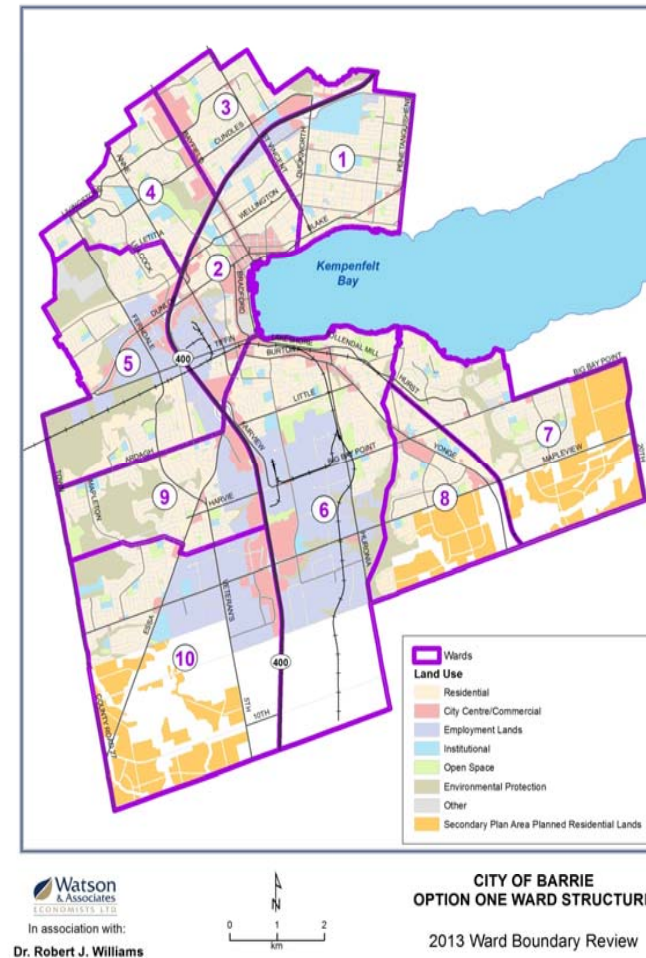
Present Ward Structure

Existing Ward Boundary Configuration Evaluation Summary

Principle	Evaluation	Comment
Representation by Population	No	Only two wards are optimal, two wards below range of variation.
Population & Electoral Trends	No	Two wards are optimal in 2018; two outside range below, two outside range above, one at limit Only one ward is optimal in 2022; three outside range below, three outside range above.
Means of Communication & Accessibility	Yes	Hwy 400, GO railway line, Bayfield, Dunlop used as dividers; only one unfavourable line (between Wards 6 and 7).
Geographical & Topographical Features	Yes	Major natural features respected in ward boundaries.
Community or Diversity of Interests	Mixed	Ward 1-2 boundary divides similar neighbourhoods; also Ward 4-5 boundary. Others are favourable. Ward 2 increasingly less coherent with intensification.
Effective Representation	No	Population imbalances dilute votes of many electors. Ward 8 includes non-adjointing communities. Ward 4: small population, small area. Wards 7-9-10 large populations, large areas.

Option One

- hybrid version of preliminary alternatives
- retains 5 + 5 symmetry
- least change from current design



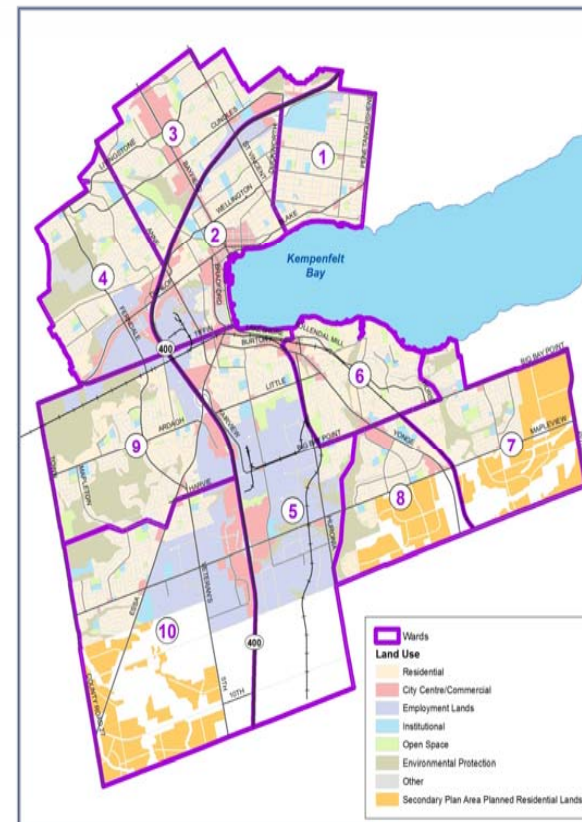
Option One

Option One Evaluation Summary

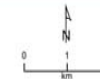
Principle	Evaluation	Comment
Representation by Population	Yes	Only three wards are optimal, but all within the defined range of variation for 2014. One ward narrowly below range of variation in 2013.
Population & Electoral Trends	Mixed	Design plausible for 2018 but not 2022. Four wards are optimal in 2018; one at limit of range. Only two wards are optimal in 2022; three outside range, one at limit of range.
Means of Communication & Accessibility	Yes	Hwy 400, GO railway line, Bayfield used as dividers; some less traditional lines (between Wards 4 and 5, 9 and 10).
Geographical & Topographical Features	Yes	Natural features used extensively. Major natural features respected in ward boundaries.
Community or Diversity of Interests	Mixed	Ward 1-2 boundary divides similar neighbourhoods; also Ward 4-5 boundary. With the exception of the proposed Ward 5, others good. Ward 2 increasingly less coherent with intensification.
Effective Representation	No	Population imbalances dilute votes of many electors. Proposed Ward 5 includes non-adjointing communities. Area-population relationship works against effective representation.

Option Two

- shifts emphasis towards areas of projected population growth
- shorter term population imbalances continue



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CITY OF BARRIE
OPTION TWO WARD STRUCTURE
2013 Ward Boundary Review

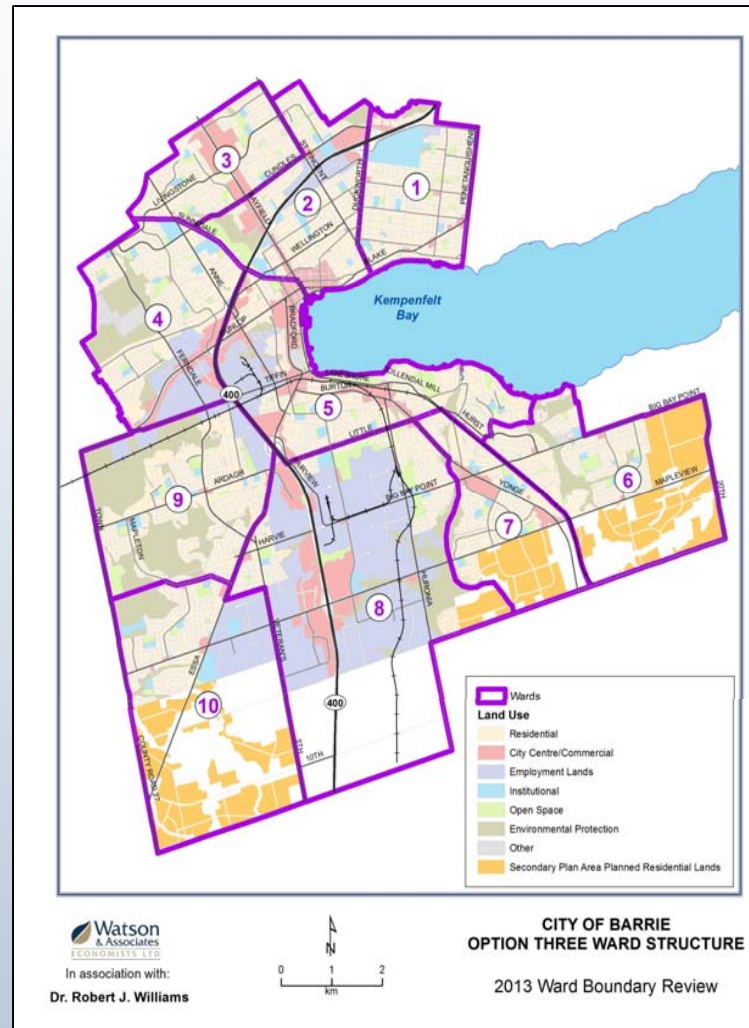
Option Two

Option Two Evaluation Summary

Principle	Evaluation	Comment
Representation by Population	No	Four wards outside the defined range of variation in 2014. Two wards at optimal size.
Population & Electoral Trends	No	Population distribution uneven for 2018 and 2022. Two wards are optimal in 2018; three in 2022. Two wards outside range in 2022; three in 2022, another close to limit of range.
Means of Communication & Accessibility	Yes	Hwy 400, GO railway line and BCRY, Tiffin Street used as dividers; some less traditional lines (between Wards 5 and 6, 9 and 10).
Geographical & Topographical Features	Yes	Major natural features respected in ward boundaries.
Community or Diversity of Interests	Mixed	Ward 1-2 boundary divides similar neighbourhoods; also Ward 3-4 boundary. With the exception of the proposed Ward 5, others good. Ward 2 increasingly less coherent with intensification.
Effective Representation	No	Population imbalances dilute votes of many electors. Proposed Ward 5 more linear than compact. Area-population relationship works against effective representation in the south.

Option Three

- abandons present convention re Hwy 400
- divides downtown core



Option Three

Option Three Evaluation Summary

Principle	Evaluation	Comment
Representation by Population	No	Only one ward is optimal, but one ward below range in 2013 and 2014. All others within the defined range of variation with one at top extremity in 2014.
Population & Electoral Trends	Yes	Three wards are optimal in 2018 and 2022; one at lower limit of range in 2018 and one at the top in 2022.
Means of Communication & Accessibility	Yes	Many familiar transportation corridors retained with new components added. Hwy 400 not used in its entirety; some less traditional lines incorporated into design.
Geographical & Topographical Features	Yes	Natural features used effectively. Major natural features respected in ward boundaries.
Community or Diversity of Interests	Mixed	Seven of the wards contain conventional groupings of neighbourhoods. Proposed Wards 2 and 8 include adjoining areas across Highway 400; Ward 5 a novel combination of Bayshore neighbourhoods. Downtown core divided.
Effective Representation	No	Population imbalances dilute votes of many electors. Downtown communities divided. Area-population relationship works against effective representation.

Conclusions

- existing ward boundary configuration does not meet the two population principles
- all designs must incorporate both relatively densely populated, established neighbourhoods with sparsely populated areas: impedes goal of “effective representation” as defined here

Conclusions

- Option One works very well for 2014 and 2018, less so for 2022
- Option Two improves representation over time but less is favourable in the short term
- Option Three uses less traditional boundary lines to achieve balance
- Each option more strengths than weaknesses, each can be defended in terms of review principles