

ENVISIONING OUR UXBRIDGE VISION WORKSHOP

November 2025



Presentation Outline

- What is the Township Official Plan?
- Review of Current Official Plan Vision
- How should the Vision be updated to reflect Uxbridge today and in the future?

What is the Township Official Plan ?

- The Official Plan is the Township's long range comprehensive land use planning document.
- It establishes the long-term vision for the community, and the decision-making framework for Council.
- The Official Plan has historically incorporated the Durham Region Official Plan (DROP) for lands outside the Uxbridge Urban Area.
- Changes in Provincial legislation mean that DROP in its entirety is now part of the Township's Official Plan.

Current Township Official Plan Vision

Uxbridge Township – A Rural Ontario Treasure

Uxbridge Township is a vibrant, caring community that will protect and enhance:

- i) the beauty and tranquility of its rural setting through managed growth;
- ii) the local natural environment;
- iii) the close-knit lifestyle of a small historic town and hamlets;
- iv) the local economy, both urban and rural; and
- v) the social, cultural, recreational and health programs.

Downtown Vision

Downtown Uxbridge is the vibrant focus of a thriving small town set in rolling hills and reflecting its strong agricultural heritage.

There is an active street scene, with people –residents and visitors – shopping, browsing, enjoying the company of friends in restaurants and cafes, and strolling along pleasant and attractive streets. A range of stores, more varied and attractive than in the past, and other commercial enterprises, many run by local entrepreneurs, has made it attractive as a place to shop and conduct business. Vacant stores are a thing of the past. The pedestrian orientation of the downtown streets is evident from the modest flow of traffic with few trucks. A small park, or “town square” in the centre of town provides a focal point for

Downtown Vision (cont'd)

Community activities, or for simply relaxing in a pleasant park setting. The town's farming roots are evident in the colourful farmer's market that attracts both residents and visitors, and provides a valuable means for area farmers to offer their produce. A grocery downtown provides essentials without the need for a car.

The Uxbridge Brook, once completely out of sight in the downtown area, is once again visible, providing an attractive natural feature to complement the large shade trees along the main streets. The streets themselves reflect Uxbridge's heritage and history, with buildings that have their exteriors remodelled or renovated in keeping with established heritage guidelines, and

Downtown Vision (cont'd)

signage and street furnishings in tasteful harmony. The rear aspects of buildings facing public areas are no longer an eyesore. The older heritage buildings are complemented by some newer structures (some replacing eyesores or deteriorating buildings), some of which may be more modern in design, but enhance the character of the town.

Uxbridge's reputation as an intensively artistic community is evident from the many works of public art installed around the town, giving it a unique character. And its designation as "The Trail Capital of Canada" is evident in the extensions of the extensive trail system that reach into downtown, enabling people to walk or bicycle from downtown to the surrounding natural

Downtown Vision (cont'd)

areas. Ease of access is provided through numerous public parking areas, well-marked and attractive in design and landscaping. Similarly, ease of access for physically challenged is provided at most stores and all public facilities. The downtown has a diversified population of residents, with accommodation suited to varying economic levels.

In short, downtown Uxbridge is a place that attracts visitors and tourists, and tempts travelers to stop and explore, with appropriate accommodation for those who wish to stay overnight. The downtown offers a good livelihood to business enterprises located there, and provides a commercial and recreational focus of residents.

Downtown Vision (cont'd)

Uxbridge is a small town in a rural community, with a downtown that has become an attractive destination for visitors and an effective focus for residents, through a bold approach by Council and the community, including enlightened planning, good design and wise investments of resources.

Workshop Review

- Please review and consider each component of the Township Vision with respect to:
 - Is this statement still reflective of what the vision for Uxbridge should be for the next 25 years?
 - Is anything missing?
- Downtown Vision was recently approved and is provided as context for the review of the general directions.

Workshop

- A work book and pens have been provided for all participants to make your own notes and comments. The submission of the workbooks or other written submissions is welcomed at the end of the workshop or afterwards up to the end of November for consideration in the preparation of the draft Official Plan.

Strategic Directions, Goals and Objectives

Strategic Direction 1: The Future of Uxbridge's Downtown

Goals

1. To establish the Downtown as the social, business and retail centre of the community.

Related Objectives

1.1 To maintain existing and attract new retail and commercial activities to the Downtown.

1.2 To create an environment in the Downtown that is attractive to residents and visitors.

Strategic Directions, Goals and Objectives (cont'd)

Strategic Direction 2: Uxbridge's Economy Now and in the Future.

Goals

2. To ensure the health of the Township's local economy by supporting its business and tourism sectors.

Related Objectives

2.1 To support the agricultural and aggregate industries and expansion of farm-related businesses in the Township.

2.2 To encourage self-reliance, entrepreneurship and growth of the small business sector.

2.3 To promote increased tourism, building on the Township's assets and heritage.

Strategic Directions, Goals and Objectives (cont'd)

Strategic Direction 3: Managing Growth for Sustainable Development.

Goals

3. To manage growth of the community in a sustainable manner that balance environmental protection, the preferred lifestyle of residents and economic viability.

Related Objectives

3.1 To guide and direct the location, type and amount of future residential and commercial development.

Strategic Directions, Goals and Objectives (cont'd)

Strategic Direction 3 Related Objectives (cont'd)

3.2 To give consideration to the costs and benefits of the physical infrastructure provided to support growth.

3.3 To encourage an appropriate mix of residential, commercial and industrial development to maintain a viable tax base while protecting the rural and small town character of the community.

Strategic Directions, Goals and Objectives (cont'd)

Strategic Direction 4: Environmental Protection

Goals

4. To protect, enhance and restore the natural resources in Uxbridge Township in a manner that contributes to the community's quality of life, identity and economy.

Related Objectives

4.1 To protect the quality of surface and ground water in the community.

4.2 To create an environment in the Downtown that is attractive to residents and visitors.

Strategic Directions, Goals and Objectives (cont'd)

Strategic Direction 4: Related Objectives (cont'd)

4.2 To preserve and protect the Oak Ridges Moraine and Natural Heritage System established by the Greenbelt Plan.

4.3 To preserve and promote unique environmental attributes of the community in a manner that contributes to recreational and tourism opportunities.

Strategic Directions, Goals and Objectives (cont'd)

Strategic Direction 5: Community Services to Support Quality of Life

Goals

5. To maintain and enhance where possible community services to support the quality of life for Township residents.

Related Objectives

To work with the Province and other levels of government to maintain and support health and social services to meet the changing needs of residents.

Workshop Review

- Please review and consider each component of the Township Strategic Direction and related Goals and Objectives with respect to:
 - Is this statement still reflective of what the vision for Uxbridge should be for the next 25 years?
 - Is the statement given the priority it should be in the context of the other components of the Vision/Direction/Goals/Objectives?
 - Is anything missing?

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
THANK YOU