

# The Corporation of the Town of Tillsonburg

## Youth Advisory Council Meeting

### AGENDA



Wednesday, February 5, 2025

4:30 PM

The Upper Deck Youth Centre

19 Queen Street

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**1. Call to Order**

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

Moved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_

THAT the agenda as prepared for the Youth Advisory Council meeting of February 5, 2025 be approved.

**3. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

**4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Moved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_

THAT the minutes of the January 8, 2025 Youth Advisory Council be approved.

**5. General Business and Reports**

**5.1 Update on Program Suggestions**

Moved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_

THAT the Update on Youth Suggestions be received by the Youth Advisory Council as information.

**5.2 Survey**

**6. Next Meeting**

**7. Adjournment**

Moved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_

THAT the meeting be adjourned at \_\_\_\_ p.m.

# The Corporation of the Town of Tillsonburg

## Youth Advisory Council Meeting

### MINUTES



Wednesday, January 8, 2025

4:30 PM

The Upper Deck Youth Centre

19 Queen Street

ATTENDANCE: Scott Gooding  
Liam Spencer-Enright (Chair)  
Sorraya Buchanan-St.Gelais  
Scarlet Robson  
Sophie Hicks  
Julia Drobits  
Chris Parker, Councillor  
Kelly Spencer, Councillor

Regrets: Dakshneel Singh  
Jaxon Gundry

Staff: Duncan Bryce, Records and Legislative Coordinator  
Amelia Jaggard, Deputy Clerk

Regrets: Constable Randi Crawford, Oxford O.P.P. Media Relations  
Officer

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**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

**Resolution # 1**

**Moved By:** Sorraya Buchanan-St.Gelais

**Seconded By:** Scarlet Robson

THAT the agenda as prepared for the Youth Advisory Council of January 8, 2025 be approved.

**Carried**

**3. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Sophie Hicks joined the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

**4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**Resolution # 2**

**Moved By:** Chris Parker, Councillor

**Seconded By:** Scott Gooding

THAT the minutes of the June 5, 2024 Youth Advisory Council meeting be approved; and

THAT the minutes of the December 4, 2024 Youth Advisory Council meeting be approved.

**Carried**

**5. General Business and Reports**

**5.1 Review of Committee's Terms of Reference**

**5.2 Committee Membership**

It was noted that the current youth members are leaving to post-secondary school following their graduation in June and that the recruitment process to fill these spots will need to commence in the Spring of 2025.

**5.3 Youth Questionnaire - CS-24-114**

The Youth Advisory Council agreed to do some preparatory work on their own time, developing questions within the categories as previously discussed by the committee. These questions are to be submitted to the staff liaison to be included on the next Youth Advisory Council meeting agenda.

The categories as noted in previous minutes are as listed below:

- Recreation, Sports, and Programs and Clubs
- Youth Spaces
- Arts and Culture
- Shopping
- Wellness
- Barriers

**6. Next Meeting**

**7. Adjournment**

**Resolution # 3**

**Moved by: Julia Drobits**

**Seconded by: Kelly Spencer, Councillor**

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

**Carried**

Staff provided the following update regarding Youth suggestions:

“The VIBE program covered the game based programs and pizza nights (along with lots of other foods). Geocaching was a bit outside of our realm of expertise. We reviewed the idea of doing dances, did some research, and chose to not move forward after consulting with staff and students involved with past and current prom planning – there were obstacles and risks associated with hosting a dance that we weren’t able to reasonably mitigate.”

## Introduction

### Why are we asking you to fill out a survey?

The Town of Collingwood would like to hear what you think, what you like, what you don't like and what we should do about it. We want to know what concerns you have and how we can work with you in making decisions that impact you and our community. We thought a survey might help start the conversation.

### Who are we asking to complete the survey?

The survey has been designed for members of our community between the ages of 12 and 29; we however appreciate feedback from all Collingwood residents.

### What you need to know about the survey

Your participation is voluntary and the responses you provide will be anonymous. At no point in the survey is your personal information being collected and there are no known or anticipated risks with your participation. You can skip questions if you do not want to answer. When you finish a QR code will be generated which you can use to obtain volunteer hours.

### Who to contact if you have a question, comment or would like more information?

## Survey

### Who are you?

We want to know a little bit more about you so that we can understand who our survey is reaching.

- How old are you? 12 – 16, 17 – 19, 20 – 24, 25-29
- How long have you lived in Collingwood? 0-5, 5-10, 10+
- What do you do in your free time?  

Team Sports	Volunteer	Lessons/Classes	Clubs
Activism	Skiing	Biking/hiking	Arts (music, drawing etc)
Other: _____			
- Do you currently go to school? Elementary, Highschool, College, University, No
- Do you work? No, FT, PT, Seasonal, training/co-op/apprenticeship
- Are you part of a youth club, group or organization? Student Council, Collingwood Youth Centre, Library, Interac, other
- How connected do you feel to your community? Very connected, connected, somewhat connected, not connected
- What is the best way to communicate with you? Instagram, webpage, e-newsletter

### Find Your Voice!

We want to know more about how you can be heard.

- How important is it for you to have a voice in what happens in the Town of Collingwood?

Extremely Important    Important    Not that Important    Don't Care

- How do you feel the Town of Collingwood rates in providing opportunities for you to have a voice in decision making? Excellent, Good, Average, Poor, Fail

### What's Bugging You?

We want to know what the BIGGEST issues are for you in the Town of Collingwood. Check all that apply.

- What do you think are the biggest issues for the Town of Collingwood?

SOCIAL ISSUES – Racism/Discrimination, Bias, Lack of Inclusion,, Climate Change, Gender Issues, Bullying, Inequity, Mental Health & Addiction

Is there something we missed?

PRACTICAL ISSUES Getting around, outdoor spaces, things to do, safety, where to hang out, ways to be active, employment, creative places (art, music, drama, events)

Is there something we missed?

### What's Stopping You?

We're wondering if something has ever stopped you from participating in Town events or programs?

- What's stopping you from participating in town events/programs?  
 Don't have a ride    I'm too busy    Working    Uncomfortable  
                          Financial Stuff    Doesn't interest me  
 Don't know about what's happening    No one to go with    Other

### What can we do?

We want to help. We've got some ideas that might help get YOUR voice heard more in the Town of Collingwood, check any that you think might work out. If you have any ideas, please add them in the space provided.

- Youth Council (advises council on youth issues)
- Annual Youth Summit
- Youth Activists (a project based group)
- Direct Line to Council (can we make it easier for you to talk to council)
- Collaborative Projects – youth working on specific projects with organization team (ex. workshop design, communication)
- Participation on committees
- Youth Focused webpage with information, updates and ways to connect with the Town
- Other

Please use this space to add more detail

Is there anything else you would like us to know?



A picture is worth a thousand words! What IS Collingwood to you? Submit an image in ANY format that speaks to you and show us what the Town of Collingwood means to you. Photos, drawings, sketches, graphic design ...all mediums welcome!

In creating your image, please honour the privacy of others in the community or misrepresenting the subject matter.



## EMPOWERING YOUTH SURVEY 2024

The City of Brantford is currently working to develop the 2025-2027 Empowering Youth Strategy, and we want to hear directly from youth, parents/guardians, and youth advocates about the issues that are important to them! Your feedback will help us inform municipal priorities and actions to be taken under the updated Empowering Youth Strategy, including how we can provide more opportunities for youth to get involved in local government, community programs, civic action and more.

### Tell us about [you!](#)

**1. Brantford postal code**

**2. What's your age group:**

15-18

19-24

25-30

**3. What's your favourite subject/topic to learn about?**

**4. What's your favourite place in your neighbourhood?** (Park, community centre, sports field, store, trail, etc.)

5. **Tell us about why this is your favourite place in your neighbourhood** (e.g. close to friends, feels safe, chill vibes, etc.)

**What makes a City youth-friendly?**

6. **What are the biggest issues impacting youth in Brantford?**

7. **What do youth care about in Brantford?** (e.g. the environment, transportation, employment, art/culture, access to food, more places to hangout, etc.)

8. **How can the City create conditions for youth to influence change in Brantford?** (e.g. ask youth for our input, promoting City resources, more information about Brantford Youth Council, etc.)

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9. **Brantford is a diverse community; what can we do better as a community to create opportunities for all youth in Brantford?** (e.g. more youth employment/volunteer opportunities, more diverse mentorship, translated resources, improving accessibility, etc.)

10. **Tell us about the best programs, services, or supports you have in this community** (e.g. school clubs, a youth hub, mental health resources, a food program, a team, etc.)

**11. What programs/services/strategies should be considered when addressing youth homelessness?**

**How do you like to get involved?**

**12. Have you participated in any City of Brantford programs for youth (e.g. STEM workshops, Bridging the Gap, Youth Hubs, Local sports leagues, Library Activities, etc.)?**

- Yes
- No

**If YES: What programs did you participate in?**

**If YES: What did you like about these programs?**

**If NO: You indicated that you have not participated in City programs for youth in the past. What are some of the reasons? (please select all that apply)**

- Cost of programs or supplies needed for programs,
- Programs do not appeal to me

- No time to attend
- Did not know about the programs
- Personal health and/or mental health reasons
- I don't have anyone to go with
- I don't have access to transportation
- Program is not accessible
- No computer or internet to attend virtual programs
- Other (please specify)

**13. Where are you most comfortable participating in community programs? (please select all that apply)\***

- Close to home (walking distance)
- Close to a youth hub (e.g. Why Not Youth Centre, Woodview)
- Close to bus stops
- Community centres
- Parks/outdoor spaces
- Sports complexes
- Online
- Other areas in the City (please specify)

**14. Tell us about how the Covid-19 pandemic has/hasn't impacted how you engage with community activities and your peers? (e.g. I'm on social media/gaming more, employment concerns, shifts in mental health, wanting to be more social, more "FOMO", wanting try certain sports/programs, etc.)**

**15. Tell us about any ideas you have for new programs, resources, or supports for youth in Brantford?** (e.g. social events/clubs, mental health projects, leadership opportunities, celebrations, trainings, etc.)

**16. What is the best way to tell you about new programs and opportunities for youth in Brantford?** (please select all that apply)\*

- Facebook
- X (formerly Twitter)
- Instagram
- Threads
- TikTok
- Snapchat
- Emails
- Text messages
- Flyers and/or posters
- Direct mail
- Newspaper and/or magazine ads
- School announcements
- Word-of-mouth
- Other (please specify)

If you'd like to be included in a draw for one of 2 \$50 Sport Chek gift cards, please provide your email address:

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Personal information, as defined in the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), is collected and authorized under Section 10(1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, and will be used to develop the City of Brantford's Age-Friendly Strategy for 2025-2027. Only the winner of the contest will be contacted. Questions about this collection can be directed to the City of Brantford Communications and Community Engagement Department, 58 Dalhousie St, Brantford, ON N3T 2J2, or [communications@brantford.ca](mailto:communications@brantford.ca) or 519-759-4150.



## Community Improvement Survey

### 1. Recreation, Sports, Programs, and Clubs

1. *What type of recreational activities would you like to see more of in our community?*
  - Sports leagues (e.g., soccer, basketball, etc.)
  - Outdoor activities (e.g., hiking, cycling, nature walks)
  - Fitness programs (e.g., yoga, pilates, zumba)
  - Youth programs (e.g., after-school activities, summer camps)
  - Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
2. *How satisfied are you with the current recreational facilities (e.g., parks, sports fields, gyms) in the community?*
  - Very Satisfied
  - Satisfied
  - Neutral
  - Dissatisfied
  - Very Dissatisfied
3. *What age groups do you think need more recreational programs or sports clubs?*
  - Children (under 12)
  - Teens (13-18)
  - Adults (19-65)
  - Seniors (65+)
  - All of the above
4. *In what ways can the town improve or expand current sports programs or recreational clubs? (Short Answer)*  

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### 2. Youth Space and Hangout Areas

1. *Do you think there are enough spaces for youth to safely hang out and socialize in the community?*
  - Yes
  - No
  - Not sure
2. *What type of youth-oriented spaces would you like to see created or improved?*
  - Indoor recreational areas (e.g., skate parks, community centers)

- Outdoor hangout spaces (e.g., parks, sports courts, picnic areas)
  - Youth cafes or lounges
  - After-school clubs or study spaces
  - Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. *How can the community better support young people in terms of providing safe, inclusive spaces for socializing? (Short Answer)*
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4. *What is the biggest challenge that youth face when trying to find safe places to spend time?*
- Lack of space
  - Safety concerns
  - Lack of activities or events
  - Limited transportation options
  - Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Arts and Culture

1. *What types of arts and cultural events would you like to see more of in the community?*
- Music festivals or concerts
  - Theatre performances (e.g., plays, musicals)
  - Art exhibitions (e.g., visual arts, sculpture, photography)
  - Cultural celebrations (e.g., festivals, food markets)
  - Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
2. *How often do you participate in or attend arts and culture activities in the community?*
- Frequently (once a month or more)
  - Occasionally (a few times a year)
  - Rarely (once a year or less)
  - Never
3. *Do you think there are enough public spaces for art and cultural expression (e.g., galleries, public art installations, event venues)?*
- Yes
  - No
  - Not sure
4. *In your opinion, what would be the most effective way to promote local arts and culture in our community? (Short Answer)*
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#### 4. Shopping

1. *What type of stores or shopping opportunities would you like to see more of in the community?*
    - Local boutiques and shops
    - Farmers' markets or food stalls
    - Large retail stores (e.g., clothing, home goods)
    - Specialty stores (e.g., health food, eco-friendly, hobby stores)
    - Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  2. *How satisfied are you with the current shopping options available in the community?*
    - Very Satisfied
    - Satisfied
    - Neutral
    - Dissatisfied
    - Very Dissatisfied
  3. *What improvements would you suggest for the shopping areas in our town?*
    - More parking
    - Better accessibility (e.g., for people with disabilities)
    - More outdoor or open-air spaces
    - Increased variety of stores
    - Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  4. *Do you prefer shopping locally or would you rather have more larger chains and big-box stores in town?*
    - I prefer shopping locally
    - I would prefer more larger stores
    - I like a mix of both
    - Neither
  5. *What are some examples of stores you would like to find in your area? (short answer)*
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#### 5. Wellness

1. *What wellness-related programs or services would you like to see offered in the community?*
  - Mental health services and support groups
  - Fitness classes (e.g., yoga, pilates, meditation)
  - Nutrition workshops or healthy eating programs
  - Community wellness events (e.g., walks, wellness fairs)

- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
2. *How accessible are wellness services (e.g., fitness centers, mental health support) in the community?*
    - Very Accessible
    - Accessible
    - Neutral
    - Not Accessible
    - Not sure
  3. *What do you think could be done to improve physical and mental health within our community? (Short Answer)*


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  4. *Would you be interested in participating in a community wellness initiative (e.g., fitness challenges, mindfulness programs)?*
    - Yes
    - No
    - Maybe

## 6. Barriers

1. *What do you think are the biggest barriers preventing people from participating in community activities or programs?*
  - Cost
  - Lack of transportation
  - Lack of information or awareness
  - Timing of activities (e.g., work or school schedule conflicts)
  - Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
2. *How can we make community events or programs more inclusive and accessible for all residents? (Short Answer)*


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3. *Have you or someone you know faced challenges in accessing community services? If so, what were the main issues?*
  - Yes (please specify the challenges): \_\_\_\_\_
  - No
4. *What would help overcome barriers to participation in community activities for individuals with physical or mobility challenges?*
  - Improved accessibility (e.g., ramps, elevators)
  - More adaptive programs or activities
  - More transportation options

- Awareness campaigns or education on inclusivity
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your participation! Your input will help shape the future of our community.**

I did find this from me to Hillary in past correspondence:

Suggested categories:

1. Shopping
2. Downtown events for youth
3. Parks, Culture and Rec
4. Future in town/ out of town
5. Concerns with current social issues: inflation, cost of rent, housing, drugs and opioid crisis, homelessness
6. Education
7. overall needs for youth in the town

The categories as noted at last meeting were these, so perhaps we are getting somewhere.

- Recreation, Sports, and Programs and Clubs
- Youth Spaces
- Arts and Culture
- Shopping (and our downtown)
- Wellness
- Barriers

Suggested simple questions

1. Parks, Culture, Rec:

Do you play sports? Is there any sports you wish the town offered that they don't?

What do you think is lacking for recreation for youth that don't play sports?

What would you like to see offered?

Would you attend youth dances?

## 2. Youth spaces

Do you access youth spaces in the town of Tillsonburg?

Do you think there should be more ?

What kind of spaces?

## 3. Arts and Culture:

Do you think the arts and culture scene is important to youth/teens?

Do you think it is geared towards youth/teens?

What is missing?

## 4. Shopping and downtown: what stores do you like in town?

What stores do you wish to see in town?

are you needs regarding retail met?

Did you attend turtle fest? What did you like? What do wish different?

Did you attend the downtown Halloween Haunted House? Was it good? Would you change? How so?

What events downtown would you like to see for highschool youth?

## 4. Wellness.

Do you have Concerns with current social issues of addiction/ opioid crisis, homelessness?

Do you have concerns with financial wellness on topics of inflation, cost of rent, housing, schooling?

Do you think that the wellbeing of youth is considered enough?

If not, what do you think is missing?

## 5. Barriers:

What are the biggest barriers as a teen/youth?

Do you see yourself leaving Tillsonburg after highschool?

If planning to attend post secondary school, do you think you would consider returning to Tillsonburg to live/work?

I offer this as suggestion and would like to hear from the youth council for relevant questions.