

BNIA OP Recommendations Summary

In March 2016 a committee was formed to gather input from the BNIA directors on the proposed changes to the Township of the Archipelago's (TOA) Official Plan (OP). The committee was composed of Andy Fabens, Anne Stewart, Peter Perdue and Rob Reed. Many thanks to Peter Frost who advised us on the review process and provide insight into key issues.

The committee reviewed the existing planning handbook (see link 1), the 2016 consolidation of existing OP (see link 2) and the recommendations proposed by the Pointe au Baril Islanders' Association (PABIA) from Nov 2015.

Official Plan Purpose & Goal

The purpose of the OP is to establish land use policies which will guide development for the whole of the TOA and which will provide for the long term use of land and water for public and private recreation in accordance with the goals and objectives set out for the Municipality.

The general goal is to preserve the unique and high quality of the natural environment which leads to a recreational experience that is both relaxing and aesthetically appealing to property owners and visitors who use the area, and is designed to make both property owners and visitors realize that they share equally in the responsibility of attaining this goal.

The BNIA feels that the existing OP is comprehensive and does a good job of addressing the general goal. We believe that there are a few areas that can be enhanced, what follows is a summary of our recommendations.

BNIA Recommendations

1. BNIA does not support any change in the minimum 2 hectare lot size for severance, in Bayfield/Nares as proposed by PABIA
2. BNIA supports strengthening the general development policies and recommends including an additional clause to; discourage multiple roof lines, encourage those in keeping with historic character (scale, size & design)
3. BNIA recommends reductions in the size of accessory buildings
4. BNIA suggests that at a minimum, TOA notices should be sent to the 10 closest property owners
5. BNIA encourages the TOA to get new septic system technologies approved by the Province as the current regulation as most common technologies are not entirely suitable on rocky terrain near water bodies
6. BNIA recommends that the TOA start a discretionary septic inspection program, the TOA should be a leader and protect water in whatever manner and with any tools available
7. BNIA feels that Natural shorelines, and especially wetlands, are important for chemical & nutrient absorption & for species protection and should be protected and encouraged
8. BNIA feels that the TOA needs to consider the following recommendations with regard to agriculture:
 - a. Support local food economies by signing the Parry Sound and area food charter
 - b. Promote & support community gardens and neighborhood markets (these require permitted use changes in OP and zoning to allow small-scale agriculture)

- c. Divert food waste from the municipal garbage stream, i.e. promote composting or a municipal organic waste program
9. BNIA recommends that the TOA recognize and identify cultural and heritage sites, so that they can be protected and preserved
10. BNIA supports changes to section 12 and to section 17 as recommended by the GBA aquaculture subcommittee

Link 1: Planning Handbook

<http://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/index.php/departments/planning/planning-documents/58-planning-handbook>

Link 2 Consolidation of OP

http://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/images/planning/documents/op_2016_january_consolidation_website.pdf