



Electoral Ward Boundary Options

Executive Summary:

This report is provided in addition to the report of the Citizens' Assembly for the purposes of providing electoral boundary representation options to accommodate the proposed reduction in the size of Council being recommended by the Citizens' Assembly.

Recommendation:

THAT the report of Mayor Mertens dated September 19, 2013 regarding proposed Electoral Ward Boundary Options be received for information purposes.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide options on electoral ward boundaries should Council desire to adopt the recommendation of the Citizens' Assembly to reduce the size of Council.

Background:

Currently there are ten (10) electoral wards within the County of Prince Edward with 15 members of Council being elected to represent the various electoral wards. Council representation varies, from one (1) Councillor representing as few as approximately 575 residents while another electoral ward Councillor may represent as many as approximately 1,850 residents.

The County issued an Invitational Request for Proposal 2013-CSF-08 for Consultant Services to Review Size of Council, which closed on March 25, 2013. Council selected the proposal submitted by Dr. Jonathan Rose to undertake this assignment.

A Citizens' Assembly was established and on August 24, 2013 the Assembly met for their third and final meeting, with a recommendation that Council be reduced from the current 15 Councillors and a Mayor to ten (10) Councillors and a Mayor to represent the County of Prince Edward.

In addition to the recommendation by the Citizens' Assembly, any change in the size of Council will result in the recognized need to adjust ward boundaries for election purposes to provide for equal Council representation.

In 2008, a Composition of Council Committee was established and provided a report to Council with various options on electoral boundaries and Council representation. The report contained various electoral boundary options for a Council comprised of 10 Councillors and a Mayor. Those included a 2 Electoral Ward System, 5 Electoral Ward System, and an Election at Large option with no electoral boundaries.

The Citizens' Assembly as well recommended a 2 Ward or 5 Ward system, however did not recommend the Election at Large option.

As both groups have identified that a 2 Ward and 5 Ward option would accommodate the reduction in Council representatives, attached are new ward boundary maps providing various ward options and populations statistics.

Analysis/Comment:

If Council chooses to reduce the size of Council, new electoral boundaries would be required to accommodate the reduction of Council members representing the residents of Prince Edward County and to balance representation by population. The current ten (10) electoral wards cannot accommodate the reduction of Councillors and provide equal and fair representation by population, which was the subject of the Ontario Municipal Board challenge. Electoral boundaries are created for election purposes only, and when new boundaries are created, they are to be created with due diligence to ensure that each new electoral ward is represented with minimal variance by population in each ward created. Note that, should Council accept the recommendation of the Citizens' Assembly, future electoral ward boundary adjustments can be expected as development occurs.

If the election at large option is selected, the ten (10) current ward boundaries would be eliminated for election purposes.

As stated within this report, ward boundaries are created for election purposes. If new electoral wards are created, the current ten (10) wards would remain as historic municipal jurisdictions as per **Council's Motion 2012-187** as follows:

"THAT staff be directed to issue a Request for Proposal to obtain an independent facilitator to conduct a public consultation process with the broadest number of stakeholders from all wards to review the size of Council and the consultant to report back to council with the results of the public consultation process and their recommendations;

THAT should the public consultation process result in a recommendation to alter the existing wards in any way, any new electoral divisions that are created be identified by numbers only and be for municipal election voting purposes only;

THAT the original pre-amalgamation boundaries and names be retained for all purposes other than municipal election voting such as marketing, branding, tourism, community identity and events;

THAT the original pre-amalgamation municipalities' names be retained and identified by signage, maps and other publications as "The historic township (town or village) of..." to further enhance and maintain the historical significance of those original municipalities, and the community identification with place."; and

THAT staff be requested to bring forward the following items to a Council Meeting:

- **The timelines and steps required to undertake a public consultation process that could result in changes to the composition of Council for the 2014 election**
- **The staff report from the September 2011 meeting**
- **The OMB decision on the 2009 ward boundary appeal**
- **The full report of the Composition of Council Committee from 2008, and**

THAT the proposal not exceed \$25,000 to be taken from the contingency funds."

Key Meeting Dates

The key meeting dates for any ward boundary changes are as follows:

September 19, 2013

Dr. Rose to give a presentation, on behalf of the Citizens' Assembly, to Committee of the Whole.

September 24, 2013

Council to consider the recommendation of the Citizens' Assembly to reduce the size of Council.

Should Council adopt the recommendation to reduce the size of Council to ten (10) Councillors plus a Mayor, then a decision is required on electoral ward boundaries.

Motion recommended if Council decides to reduce the current size of Council:

"THAT the Council for the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward be reduced from the current composition of 15 Councillors plus a Mayor to 10 Councillors plus a Mayor, as recommended by the Prince Edward County Citizens' Assembly;

THAT Option _____, which creates new ward boundaries for electoral purposes for the County of Prince Edward, be adopted; and

THAT a By-law reducing the size of Council and creating new electoral ward boundaries for the County of Prince Edward be prepared and included on the agenda for the October 22, 2013 Council meeting."

October 9, 2013

Council hold a special public meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers for the purposes of receiving input from the public regarding the recommendation to reduce the size of Council and proposed electoral boundary changes.

(As the County of Prince Edward is a single-tier municipality, there is no statutory requirement as per *the Municipal Act* to hold a public meeting regarding the composition of council or ward boundary changes.)

October 22, 2013

Council to pass a by-law to enact new ward boundaries for the 2014 Election (45-day appeal period would commence on October 22, 2013 and end on December 6, 2013).

Prior to November 6, 2013

Municipality gives notice of the passing of the by-law to the public specifying the last date for filing a notice of appeal.

December 6, 2013

Last day for notice(s) of appeal to be received.

Prior to December 20, 2013

Notice(s) of appeal to be forward to the Municipal Board.

A by-law to enact new ward boundaries for the 2014 Election By-law must be in force and the 45-day appeal period must have lapsed with no appeals to be able to implement changes for the 2014 election. Therefore, the by-law must be adopted by October 22, 2013. If the by-law is appealed, the Ontario Municipal Board issues an order to affirm or amend the by-law.

Strategic Plan/Priority Implications:

None identified for the recommendations of this report.

Financial Implications:

The financial implications to change from the current ten (10) ward structure to either a 2 Ward, 5 Ward or Election at Large structure is expected to be relatively equal.

Policy Implications:

None identified for the recommendations of this report.

Notice/Consultation:

The Chief Administrative Officer and the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Finance were consulted in the preparation of this report.

Other Options:

Council may choose to receive this report as information only and take no action.

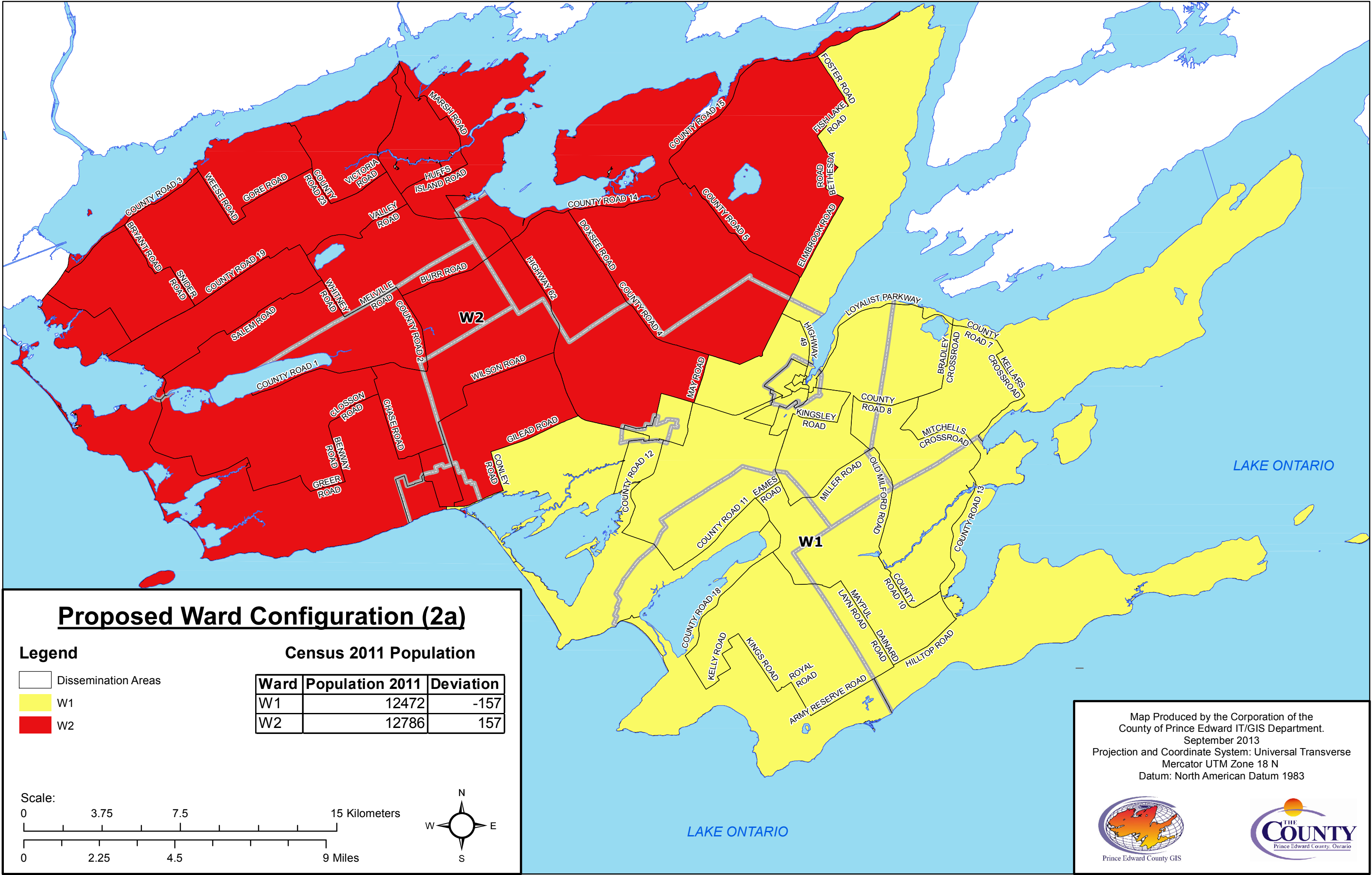
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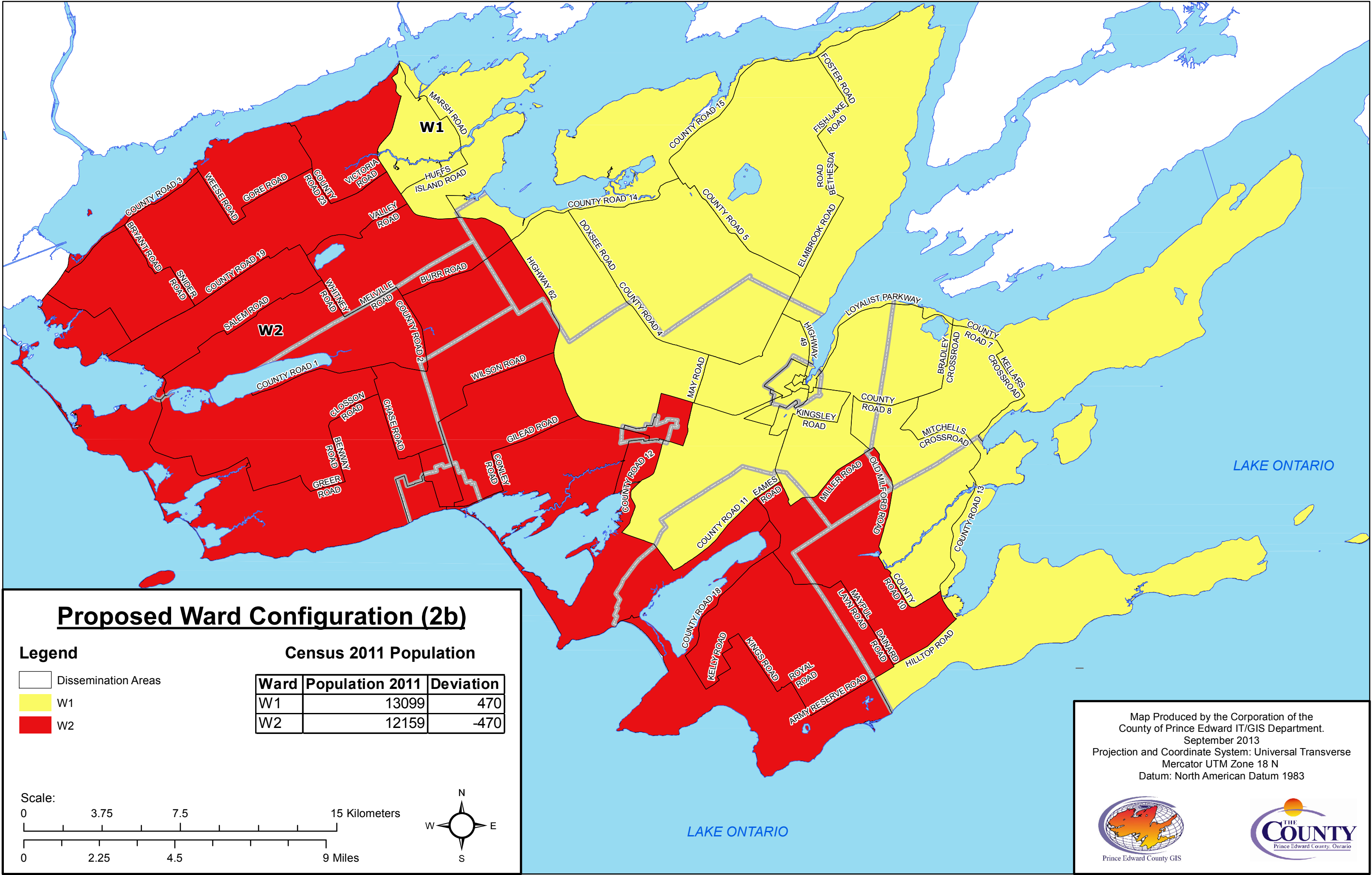
1. Two maps providing a two (2) Electoral Ward scenario
2. Two maps providing a five (5) Electoral Ward scenario
3. Charts providing population variances within each scenario

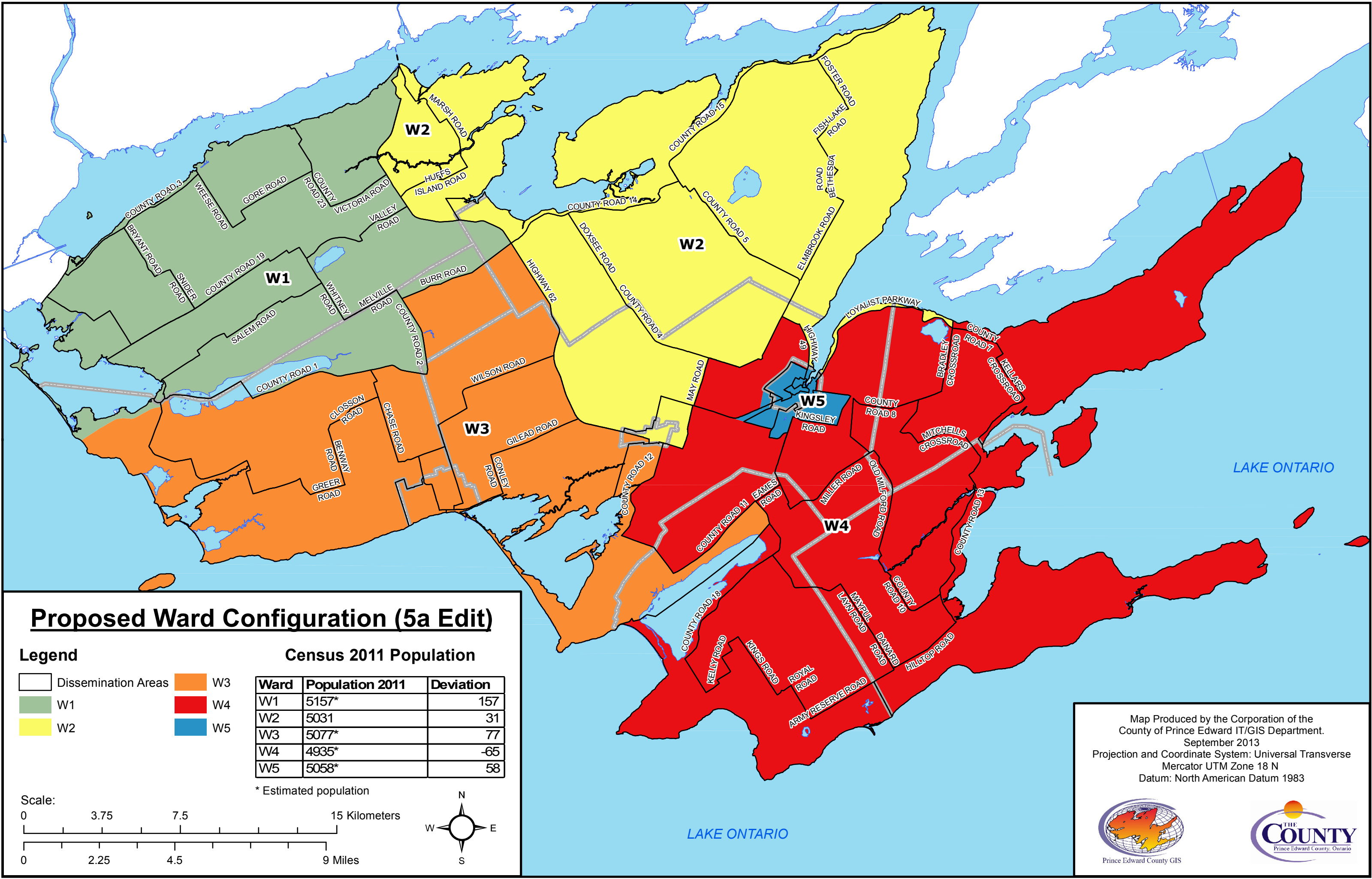
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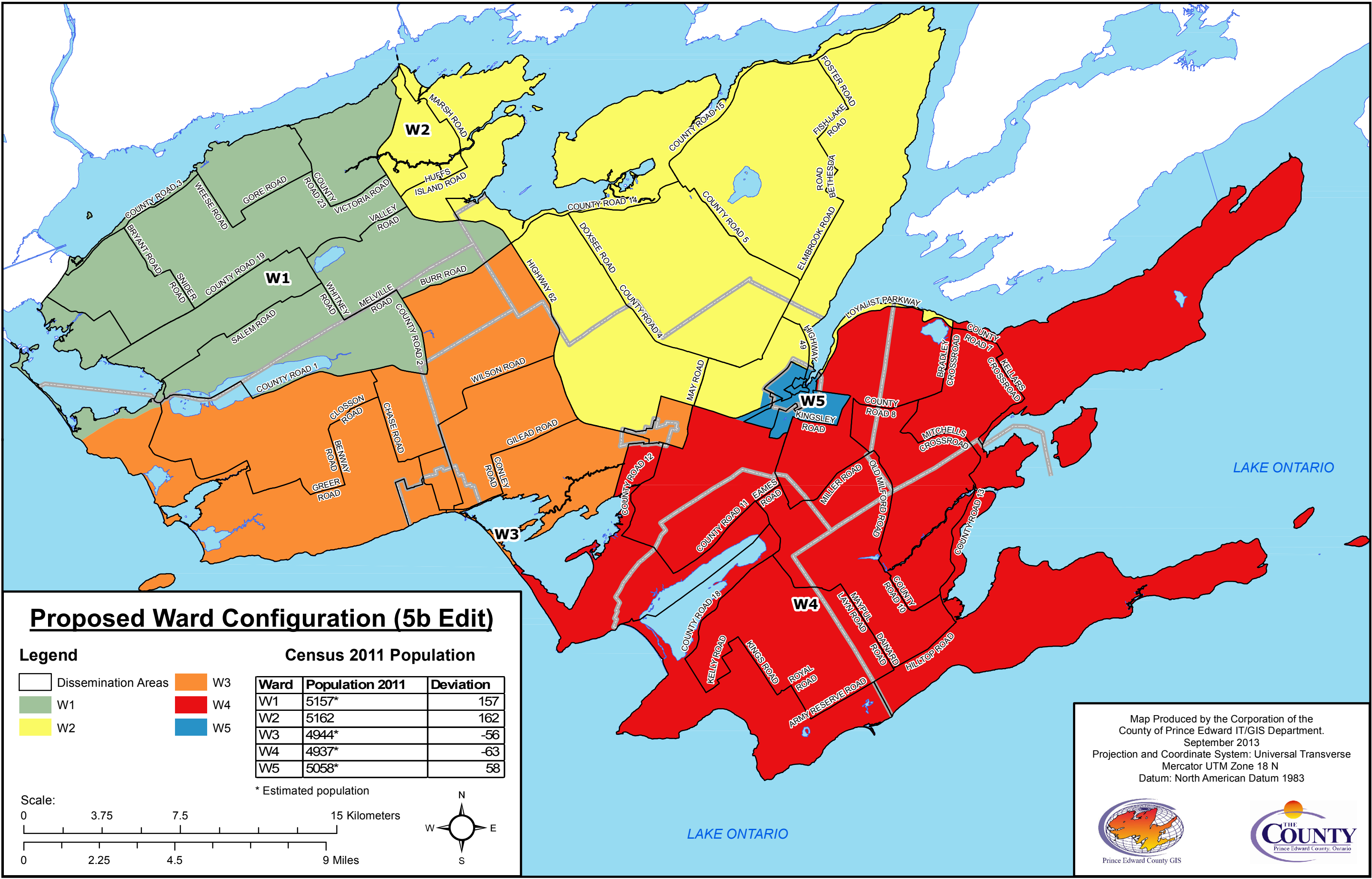
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Mertens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mayor Peter A. Mertens
September 16, 2013









PROPOSED WARD CONFIGURATION (2a)			
Ward	Composition	Population 2011	Deviation
W1 Electoral Ward	All of Ward 1 Picton All of Ward 2 Bloomfield All of Ward 5 Athol Portion of Ward 6 Hallowell All of Ward 8 North Marysburgh All of Ward 9 South Marysburgh Portion of Ward 10 Sophiasburgh	12,472	-157
W2 Electoral Ward	All of Ward 3 Wellington All of Ward 4 Ameliasburgh Portion of Ward 6 Hallowell All of Ward 7 Hillier Portion of Ward 10 Sophiasburgh	12,786	157

PROPOSED WARD CONFIGURATION (2b)			
Ward	Composition	Population 2011	Deviation
W1 Electoral Ward	All of Ward 1 Picton Portion of Ward 4 Ameliasburgh Portion of Ward 5 Athol Portion of Ward 6 Hallowell Portion of Ward 8 North Marysburgh Portion of Ward 9 South Marysburgh Portion of Ward 10 Sophiasburgh	13,099	470
W2 Electoral Ward	All of Ward 2 Bloomfield All of Ward 3 Wellington Portion of Ward 4 Ameliasburgh Portion of Ward 5 Athol Portion of Ward 6 Hallowell All of Ward 7 Hillier Portion of Ward 8 North Marysburgh Portion of Ward 9 South Marysburgh Portion of Ward 10 Sophiasburgh	12,159	-470

Electoral Ward	Proposed Ward Configuration 5a	Population 2011 (Deviation)	Proposed Ward Configuration 5b	Population 2011 (Deviation)
W1	Portion of Ward 4 Ameliasburgh Portion of Ward 6 Hallowell Portion of Ward 7 Hillier Portion of Ward 10 Sophiasburgh	5157* (157)	Portion of Ward 4 Ameliasburgh Portion of Ward 6 Hallowell Portion of Ward 7 Hillier Portion of Ward 10 Sophiasburgh	5157* (157)
W2	Portion of Ward 2 Bloomfield Portion of Ward 4 Ameliasburgh Portion of Ward 6 Hallowell Portion of Ward 8 North Marysburgh Portion of Ward 10 Sophiasburgh	5031 (31)	Portion of Ward 4 Ameliasburgh Portion of Ward 6 Hallowell Portion of Ward 8 North Marysburgh Portion of Ward 10 Sophiasburgh	5162 (162)
W3	Portion of Ward 2 Bloomfield All of Ward 3 Wellington Portion of Ward 5 Athol Portion of Ward 6 Hallowell Portion of Ward 7 Hillier Portion of Ward 10 Sophiasburgh	5077* (77)	All of Ward 2 Bloomfield All of Ward 3 Wellington Portion of Ward 6 Hallowell Portion of Ward 7 Hillier Portion of Ward 10 Sophiasburgh	4944* (-56)
W4	Portion of Ward 5 Athol Portion of Ward 6 Hallowell Portion of Ward 8 North Marysburgh All of Ward 9 South Marysburgh	4935* (-65)	All of Ward 5 Athol Portion of Ward 6 Hallowell Portion of Ward 8 North Marysburgh All of Ward 9 South Marysburgh	4937* (-63)
W5	All of Ward 1 Picton Portion of Ward 6 Hallowell	5058* (58)	All of Ward 1 Picton Portion of Ward 6 Hallowell	5058* (58)

* estimated population