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OMB dismisses electoral ward boundaries appeal

Picton – The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) has dismissed an appeal of the electoral ward boundaries by-law passed by the Council for the County of Prince Edward.

“We are pleased that OMB Chairperson Mary Ann Sills upheld the by-law and found that the public consultation process was open and fair,” says Robert Quaiff, Mayor, County of Prince Edward. “With this matter resolved, we can move forward and start preparing for the 2018 municipal election.”

On Nov. 10, 2015, Council adopted the nine-ward electoral boundary proposal and the elected representation of 13 councillors and a mayor at large. The decision by County Council followed a size-of-council review process that included seven special meetings and nine public consultation sessions.

[By-law 3719-2016](#) – being the By-law to Re-Divide The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward’s Electoral Ward Boundaries – and [By-law 3720-2016](#) – being the By-law to Change the Composition of the Council of The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward – were enacted on Jan. 26, 2016.

An appeal of [By-law 3719-2016](#) was filed to the OMB on March 4, 2016. The appeal hearing took place July 19-21, 2017 at Shire Hall.

In her ruling, Chairperson Sills wrote: “In conclusion, the Board finds that the By-law is appropriate. The public consultation process was open and fair and the engagement by the public was impressive. The Board is satisfied that Council had proper regard for the greater public good, and only after assiduous consideration made its decision. The Board finds no reason to interfere with the decision made by County Council.”

By-law 3719-2016 combines the current Ward 2—Bloomfield and current Ward 6—Hallowell electoral ward boundaries, creating one new electoral ward boundary that will be known as Ward 2—Bloomfield/Hallowell. Ward 10—Sophiasburgh will remain and use the same electoral ward boundary, but it will be renumbered to Ward 6—Sophiasburgh.

Click here to read the [OMB electoral ward boundaries appeal decision](#). More information about the size-of-council review is posted on the [County of Prince Edward website](#).

For media inquiries, please contact Mark Kerr at 613.476.2148 ext. 1009 or by email at mkerr@pecounty.on.ca