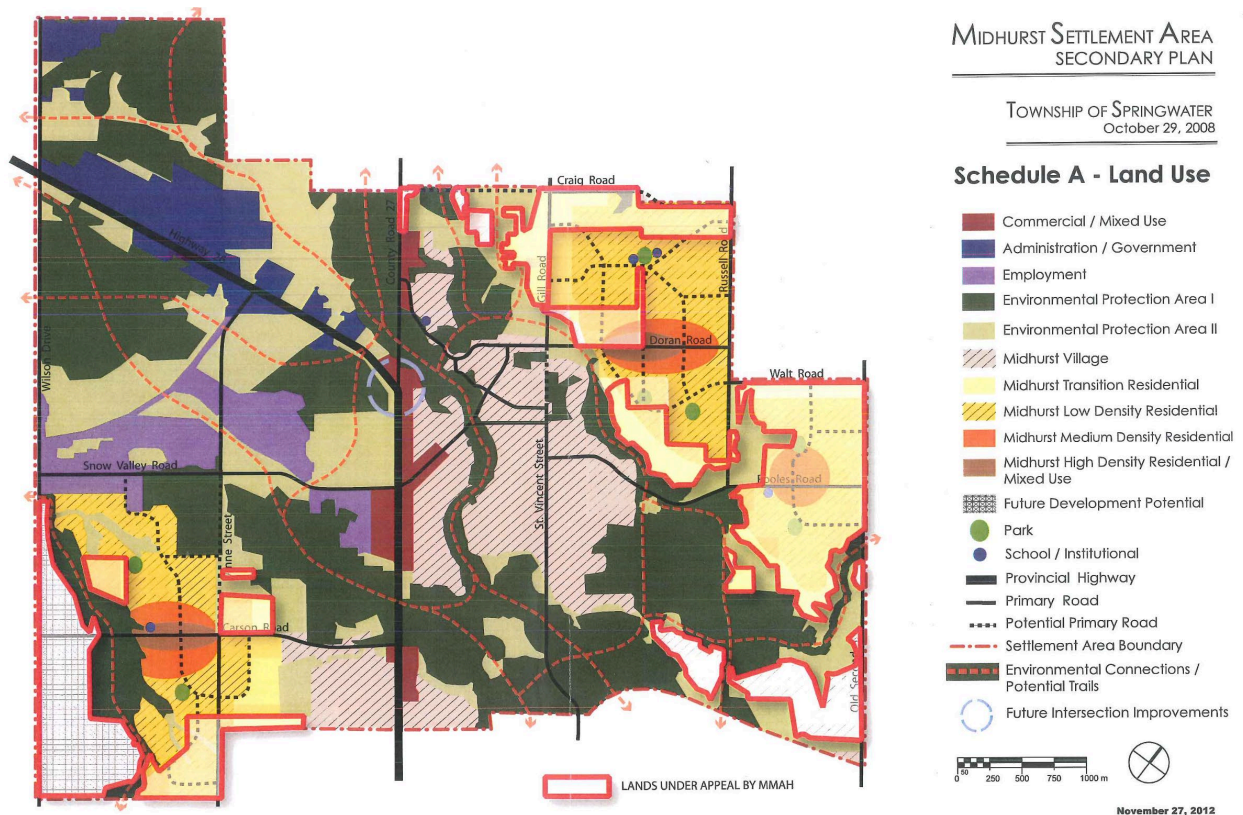


November 2019 - Update on the Midhurst Secondary Plan (MSP).

What is the Midhurst Secondary Plan?

The Midhurst Secondary Plan is a developer-sponsored proposal adopted by Springwater Council in November 2008. Its goal is to build 10,000 homes in Midhurst.

Where would these homes be built?



See "Schedule A" below. All homes would be built on productive agricultural lands.

Recent Events

September 2018

The Midhurst Ratepayers' Association (MRA) submitted a Part II Order request to the Minister of the Environment to review the *Environmental Study Report (ESR)* prepared for the Ministry by the Township's development consultant, Ainley and Associates Limited.

(A Part II Order request "bumps up" the scrutiny of an ESR to the Minister, asking for additional studies or a new Individual Environmental Assessment customised for the particular project. Springwater had only prepared a generic Municipal Class Environmental Assessment report).

January 2019

MRA submitted supplementary information to their Part II Order. ([See all MRA submission under the Part II Order tab](#)).

November 20, 2019

Minister Yurek of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) rendered his decision on the 5 Part II Orders he'd received, including MRA's. He immediately sent notification letters to the MRA and Springwater Township detailing his decision and what he requires from an environmental standpoint before the MSP can proceed.

His decision does not affect the remaining 150 conditions ordered by the OMB in October 2014 as their Conditions of Approval. They, too, must be satisfied before the mega-development can go ahead. One major condition is the Township's agreement that the proposed mega-development is financially sustainable for Springwater.

You can read Minister Yurek's letters [here](#).

Background

Over the past 11 years, the Midhurst Secondary Plan has been opposed by the Province (until November 2012), the County of Simcoe (until October 2011), the Midhurst Ratepayer's Association (ongoing) and 1,476 Midhurst residents (pop. 3,500) who personally signed a petition against the MSP. Additionally, MRA's petition on *change.org* has garnered almost 50,000 signatures. Time after time, however, the various levels of government have buckled under constant pressure from developer lobbying.

With Ontario's population growing by 100,000+ every year, we support the need for more housing. However, this must be balanced by the need to protect the farms that feed us, and the environment and financial sustainability which support our quality of life.

We believe that building 10,000 houses on Class 1 and Class 2 farmland in an area with no industry, with a questionable supply of drinking water for such enormous growth - 3,500 residents become 30,000 residents - and endangering the world-renowned and very fragile Minesing Wetlands is not the best choice. The Province's own *Growth Plan* agrees.

According to the provincial staff and their consultants and also NGOs who study population growth and densities, there is plenty of alternative land available in southern Ontario to accommodate the province's growth expectations for at least 20 years. In fact, the provincial *Growth Plan* of 2006 provided for the protection of farms while also providing sufficient land to accommodate growth. Unfortunately, it seems that developments in Ontario are governed more by developer speculation than by government planning or market demand.

If you are concerned about the direction Midhurst is taking or the property taxes you will pay in every corner of Springwater should the plan go through, please contact your local municipal councillor, Deputy Mayor and Mayor and the MRA.

Council contact information is available at www.springwater.ca

Links to MRA are provided under [Contact Us](#). You can also follow us on Facebook @SaveMidhurstVillage.