



Council Meeting Highlights - March 23, 2026 - Regular Council Meeting

Designated Heritage Grant Program

Council approved a Designated Heritage Property Grant policy. The goal of this policy is to provide a single, simplified program to assist property owners with heritage conservation and preservation projects. Report and policy information is available here:

<https://pub-goderich.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=12d553f2-5484-4272-8f5c-a59e7ff863ee&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=66&Tab=attachments>

Community Emergency Preparedness Grant (CEP)

The Town of Goderich has received \$48,711.36 through the CEP Fund which will go towards the purchase of two trailer-mounted message signs, 2 drones, and a 1-year subscription to Voyent Alert (a notification system).

The purchase of 2 drones will allow emergency responders to safely and efficiently access hard-to-reach areas such as wooded zones, embankments, waterways, and impassable roads. They will also assist the Goderich Fire Department by providing aerial views of structure or bush fires to determine fire origin and severity before deploying personnel, improving overall responder safety.

With this funding, the Town will purchase two portable, solar-powered digital message boards on trailers to quickly relay critical public information—such as road closures, warming centre locations, and power outage updates.

A one-year subscription to Voyent Alert, a mass notification and alerting system, will allow the Town to ‘push’ real-time, targeted updates directly to residents via text, email, and voice. Full report is available here:

<https://pub-goderich.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=12d553f2-5484-4272-8f5c-a59e7ff863ee&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=71&Tab=attachments>

Ecological Health Assessment Terms of Reference

The Ecological Health Assessment for the Maitland Woods, River Valley, and Shoreline Bluffs Terms of Reference document has been prepared collaboratively by Maitland Valley Conservation Authority’s Watershed Ecologist, Erin Gouthro, and the Town of Goderich’s Asset Management and Environmental Services Manager, Jessica Clapp. The Terms of Reference outlined the framework for assessing the ecological health of three (3) natural

areas and is structured into three (3) distinct project phases, ensuring comprehensive evaluation and actionable insights. The Terms of Reference were endorsed by the Environment Committee on February 23, 2026, and has been adopted by Council.

FCM's Green Municipal Fund (GMF), through the Growing Canada's Community Canopies (GCCC) Urban Forestry Plans and Studies stream, supports projects that strengthen the planning, management, and stewardship of urban forests and provides funding of up to 90% of eligible project costs for municipalities with populations under 10,000. FCM has approved the Town's pre-application for Phase 1 of the Ecological Health Assessment of the Maitland Woods, River Valley, and Shoreline Bluffs project, and will proceed with submitting the full application by April 15, 2026.

The anticipated project start date of the Phase 1 Ecological Health Assessment project is May 1, 2027. The estimated total cost for Phase 1, as set out in the Terms of Reference, is \$40,000, with \$36,000 requested from FCM and the remaining \$4,000 to be included in the 2027 budget, potentially funded through the Environment Projects Reserve.

Staff report is available here: <https://pub-goderich.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=12d553f2-5484-4272-8f5c-a59e7ff863ee&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=51&Tab=attachments>

The next regular meeting of Council is scheduled for April 13, 2026 at 4 PM