

BARRIE'S CANNABIS RETAIL SALES DECISION – FINDING A WAY TO SAY YES

AMO/FRANK COWAN COMPANY MUNICIPAL RISK MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

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Dawn McAlpine, General Manager of Community
and Corporate Services



Provincially-Operated Stores

- November 2017: Province advises Barrie staff that it is being considered as a host municipality
- Discussion related to whether Barrie would object to being in 1st round to be open, locational concerns and local interest matters
- Subsequently, Province advises of preferred location, given an opportunity for feedback

Change in Provincial Approach

- June 2018: Province identifies moving to a private retail model
- Uncertainty and lack of control become concerns
- Inability to restrict locations through zoning or impose operating criteria through business licensing

Barrie process for decision

- Did not undertake City-initiated public consultation
- Informal “consultation”
- Delayed staff recommendation until January 7, 2019 for most up to date information possible given the frequency of changes

Decision-making factors considered

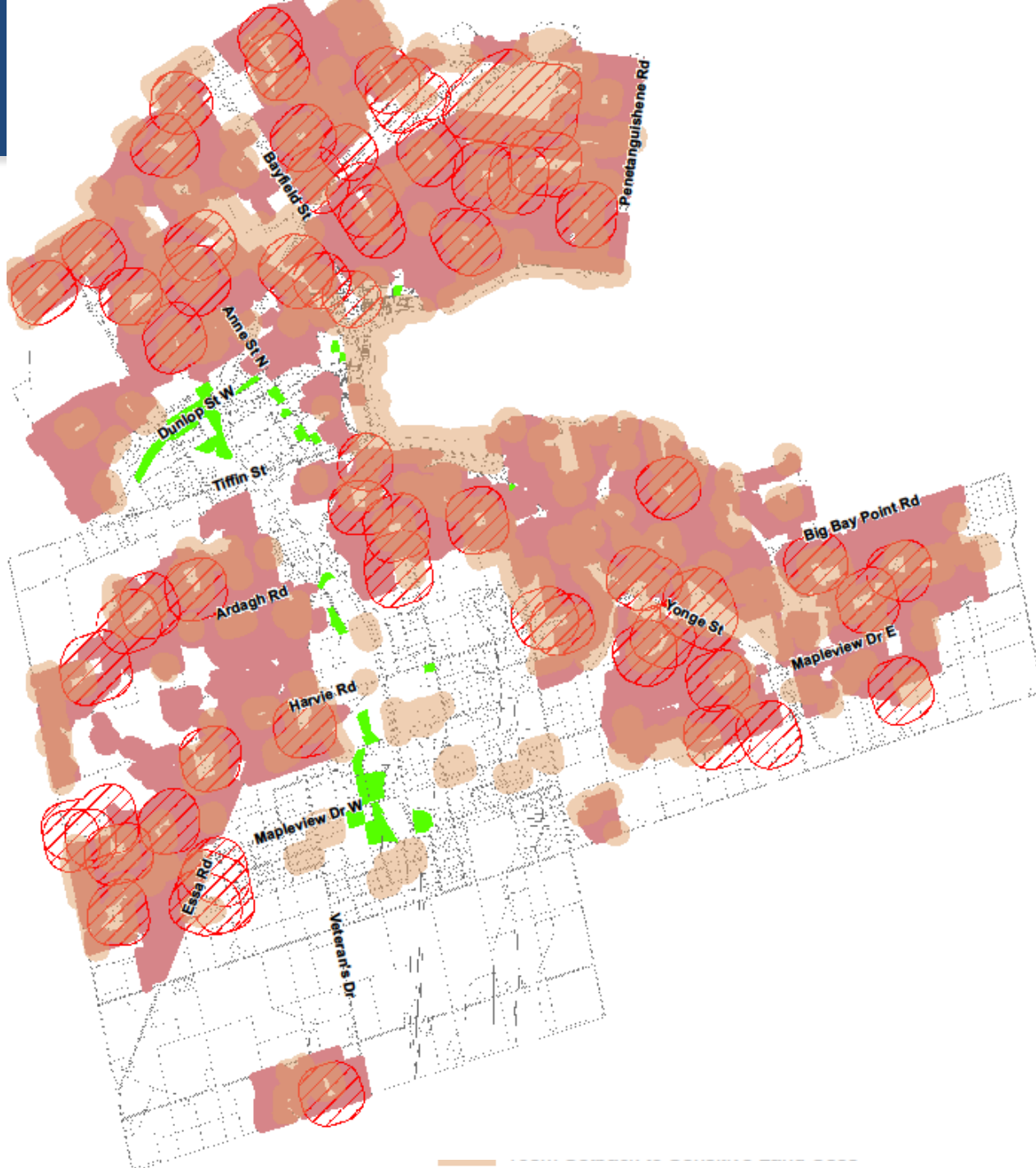
- Combatting the criminal market and contaminated supply
- Illegal dispensaries
- Location, Location, Location
- Availability through mail
- Decisions by other municipalities
- # of initial licences to be issued
- Ability to influence future legislation
- Potential for greater AGCO enforcement attention
- Additional funding availability

What was Barrie's decision

- Permit Provincially-licensed cannabis retail stores within Barrie
- Endorse a City of Barrie Cannabis Public Interest Statement
- Provide the City of Barrie Cannabis Public Interest Statement to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario
- Delegate authority to the Director of Planning and Building Services to provide written submissions identifying whether the issuance of a retail store authorization is in the public interest

Public Interest Statement

- Informed by Health Unit – reduce proximity to vulnerable populations, youth serving facilities, avoid high retail density
- Increase set back from schools (300 m vs 150 m)
- Added a number of sensitive uses with 150 m setback (parks, open spaces, addiction facilities, day nurseries/child care centres, libraries, community centres/arenas, mental health centres, youth oriented hubs)
- Not on residentially zoned lands or within 50 m of residentially zoned lands
- Avoid clustering
- Ensure parking and transit, pedestrian friendly
- Not so restrictive as to make it impossible to locate a store



Public Use Consumption

- Significant concern related to public place cannabis use
- Existing by-laws prohibited “smoking” in parks/open spaces
- Several municipalities had passed by-laws prohibiting cannabis consumption/use on sidewalks
- Enforcement challenges

BARRIE'S EXPERIENCE TO DATE

Retail stores

- No legal retail store in the initial round
- 1 authorized to apply in 2nd round, 2 placed on waiting list initially
- Preliminary review – all 3 complied with the provincial standard of 150m from schools, but did not entirely comply with the public interest statement created by Council.
- 2 of 3 initially identified for 2nd round disqualified
- Remaining of the 3 locations doesn't entirely comply with Public Interest Statement (277m vs 300 from day nursery/child care centre)
- Now we see whether our Public Interest Statement is considered!

Provincial funding received

- 53,674 households
- 1st tranche - \$136,869
- 2nd tranche – \$167,460
- Total - \$304,329

- Recently notified of 3rd tranche (unanticipated impacts funding) – an additional \$69,777

City Costs

- 2018 Actual Costs: \$33.2K
- 2019 Anticipated Costs: \$50K
- Plus: Health Unit proposal for education and enforcement

What drove these costs:

- Fire Code training and inspections
- Updating policies and training related to drugs in workplace
- Additional enforcement summer students
- Changing signage in the parks
- Preparation of reports and updating of by-laws

Paramedic/Fire Services

- Prevention vs emergency response
- No notable change in volume of medical calls
- 5 cannabis related Fire Code inspections
- Fire Prevention staff time to address both professional cannabis production facility and home growing

Municipal Law Enforcement

- Added 2 summer students to educate public about consumption in parks

Observations

- 60/40 split smoking vs vaping
- 40% of individuals using cannabis
- More evident in downtown core – not necessarily in prohibited areas
- Overall increase in smoking/vaping the parks
- Confusion about ability to use on sidewalk

Barrie Police Service Costs

- 2018 Actual Costs: \$236K
- 2019 Anticipated Costs: \$161K

What drove these costs:

- Training of Drug Recognition Experts and in Standardized Field Sobriety Testing
- Enforcement of illegal dispensaries and investigations
- Equipment
- RIDE lanes

Processing Impaired Drivers

Impaired by Alcohol

- Driver arrives at station, 2nd analysis of breath completed approximately 1 hour later
- Paperwork completed and served 15-30 min after last test

Impaired by Drug

- If DRE uses urine, approximately 90 min from arrival
- If DRE uses blood, requires visit to hospital 3-3.5 hours
- DRE then requires approx. 2 hours to complete evaluation documents
- 4 times the cost

Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicles

2018

- 203 Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle investigations
- 162 (80%) Impaired by Alcohol
- 41 (20%) Impaired by Drug

January – June 2019 (6 Months)

- 201 Impaired Operation of Motor Vehicle investigations
- 110 (55%) Impaired by Alcohol
- 91 (45%) Impaired by Drug

QUESTIONS

