

The background of the slide is a photograph of a large, cylindrical water tower. The tower is white with black text that reads 'TOWNSHIP OF CAVAN MONAGHAN' and 'MILLBROOK'. Below the township name is a green and blue wave-like graphic with the slogan 'Have it all, and love it.' The tower is situated on a grassy field with several bare trees in the foreground and a small, grey building with a dark roof nearby. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

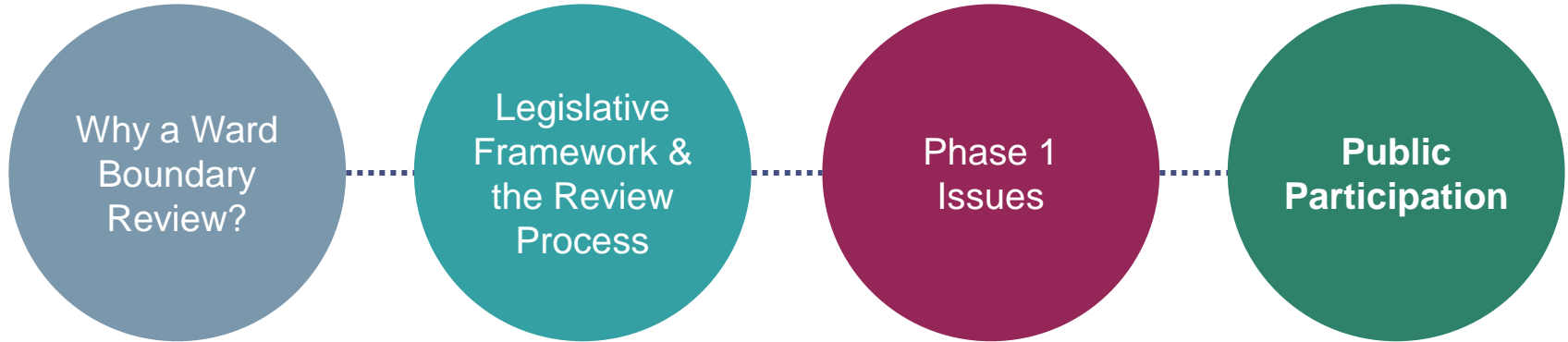
## Township of Cavan Monaghan Ward Boundary Review (WBR)

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Dr. Robert Williams & Jack Ammendolia  
December 2020



## What Will Be Covered At This Open House?



# What Are We Trying to Figure Out?



How well does the present electoral structure serve the citizens of Cavan Monaghan?

Does the present electoral structure provide fair and effective representation?

Would an alternative system provide better representation for the citizens of Cavan Monaghan?

# Context



*Current ward structure was established when Townships of Cavan and North Monaghan, and the Village of Millbrook, were merged to form the*  
**Township of Cavan Monaghan**

1998

**Prospective Ward  
Boundary Review**

2015

*Ultimately abandoned due to  
lack of public interest*

**Current Ward Boundary Review**  
*Necessitated by significant population  
growth (around 20% since 1998), which  
has been unevenly distributed.*

2020

**Council  
Structure:**  
3 Local Councillors  
(1 for each ward)  
Mayor & Deputy Mayor At-large

# Why A Ward Boundary Review?

To prepare Cavan Monaghan Council to make decisions on whether to maintain the existing ward structure or to adopt an alternative arrangement

# Legislative Framework



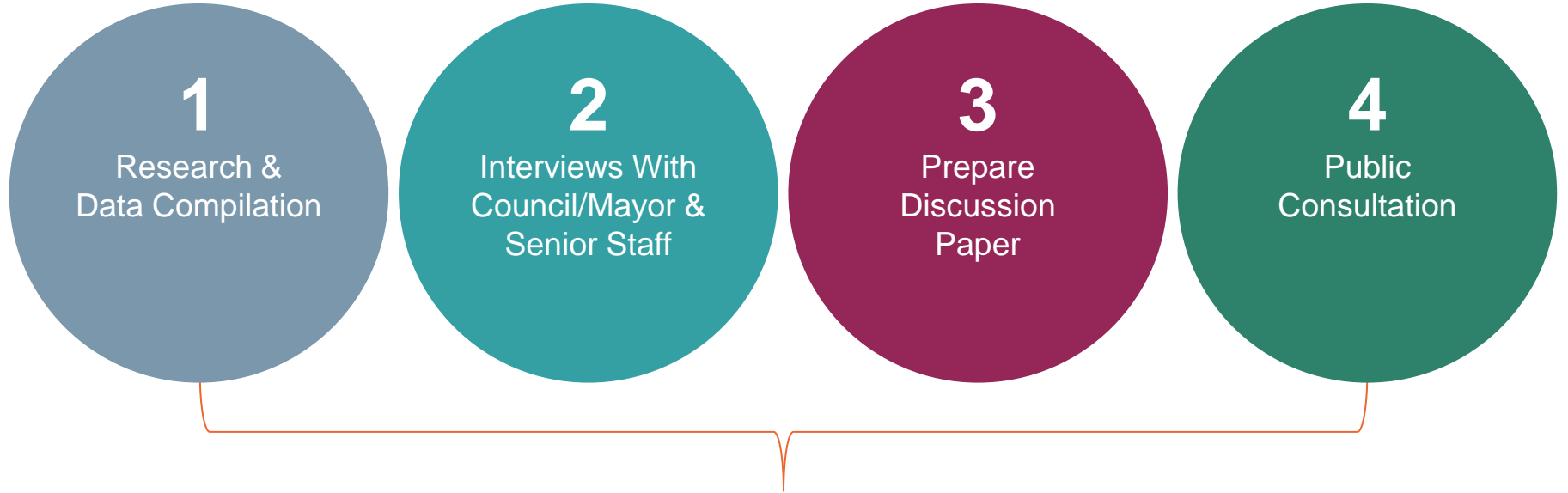
Ontario's *Municipal Act, 2001* authorizes a lower-tier municipality to:

- define the size of the Council
- determine how Council (other than the Mayor) will be elected
- “divide or re-divide the municipality into wards or dissolve the existing wards”

No stipulated schedule, standardized process or established criteria exist for electoral reviews in Ontario

- Each municipality must set its own terms, parameters, guiding principles, etc.
- A review is typically framed by established procedures and principles applied in several Ontario municipalities (and by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT)) and judicial rulings on representation

# Review Process – Phase 1



# Guiding Principles to Design Wards



A **ward-based** electoral system should address these core principles/guidelines:

1	Effective Representation
2	Representation by Population
3	Representation of Communities of Interest
4	Population and Electoral Trends
5	Geographical and Topographical Features as Boundaries



# Phase 1 Questions



Are three Local Councillors appropriate for a Township of around 10,000 inhabitants?

Does the size and make-up of the existing wards allow for effective representation?

Do the existing wards adhere to the guiding principles?

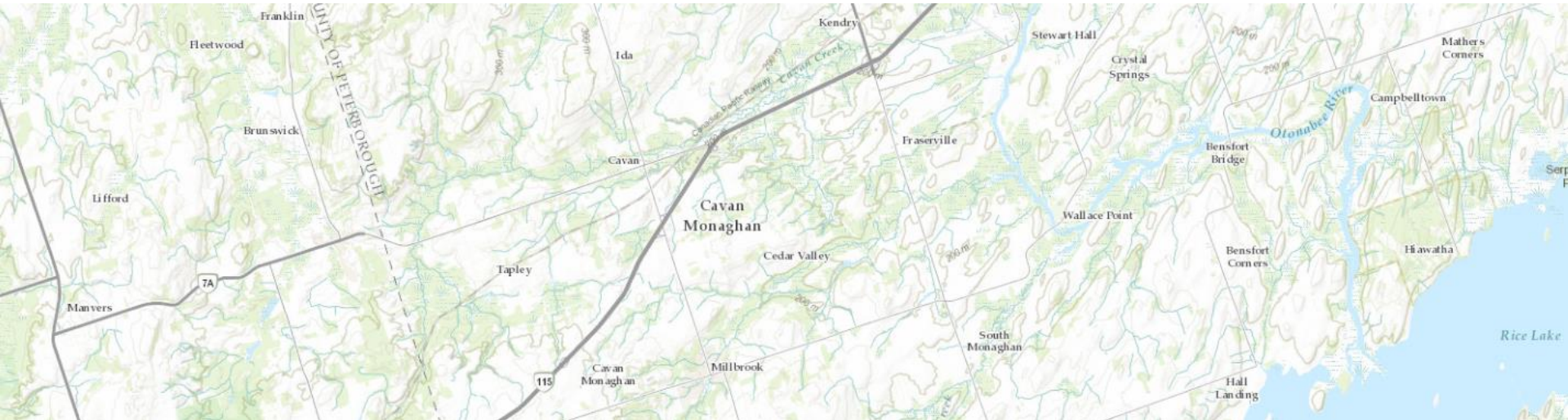
What are the strengths and weaknesses of having a ward-based system in Cavan Monaghan?

# Phase 1 Evaluations



The WBR begins with an assessment of the present ward system to determine whether it constitutes an equitable and effective electoral arrangement (i.e. “effective representation”) for the residents of Cavan Monaghan.

- If there are shortcomings, the Consultants will present alternatives for consideration.



# Phase 1 Assessments



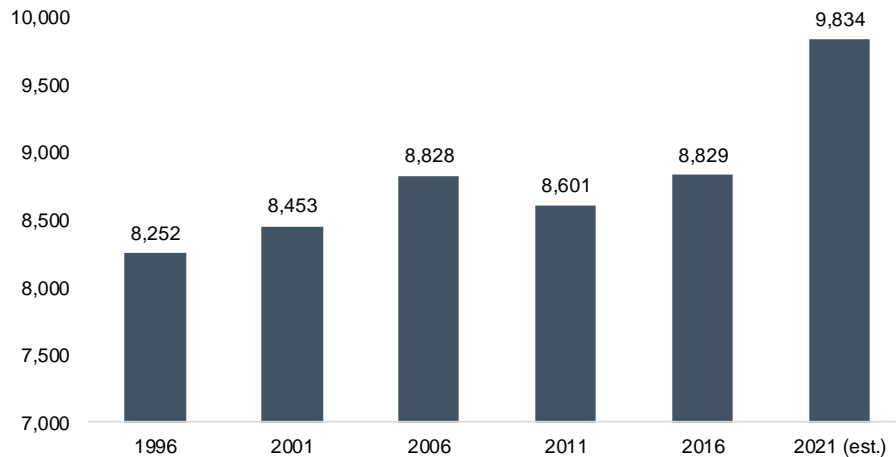
Preliminary assessment of the present ward system suggests:

- Present wards fail to adhere to the representation by population principle
- Population disparities throughout the wards expected to worsen through the next three election cycles

# Population Overview



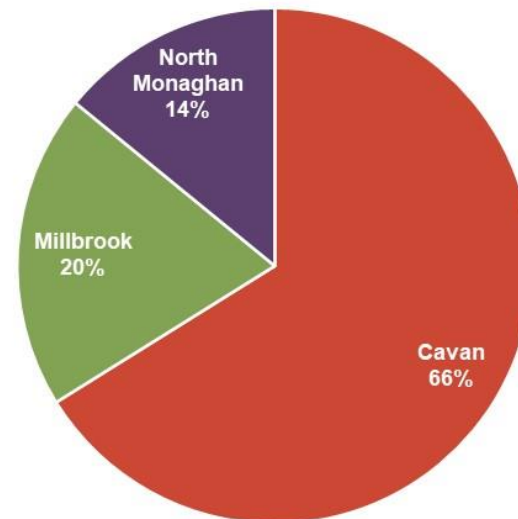
## Population Trend



Note: Populations from 1996 - 2016 are from Statistics Canada Census of Population; early 2021 population derived using 2016 census figures combined with building permit data.

All population figures exclude census undercount

## Population Share by Ward



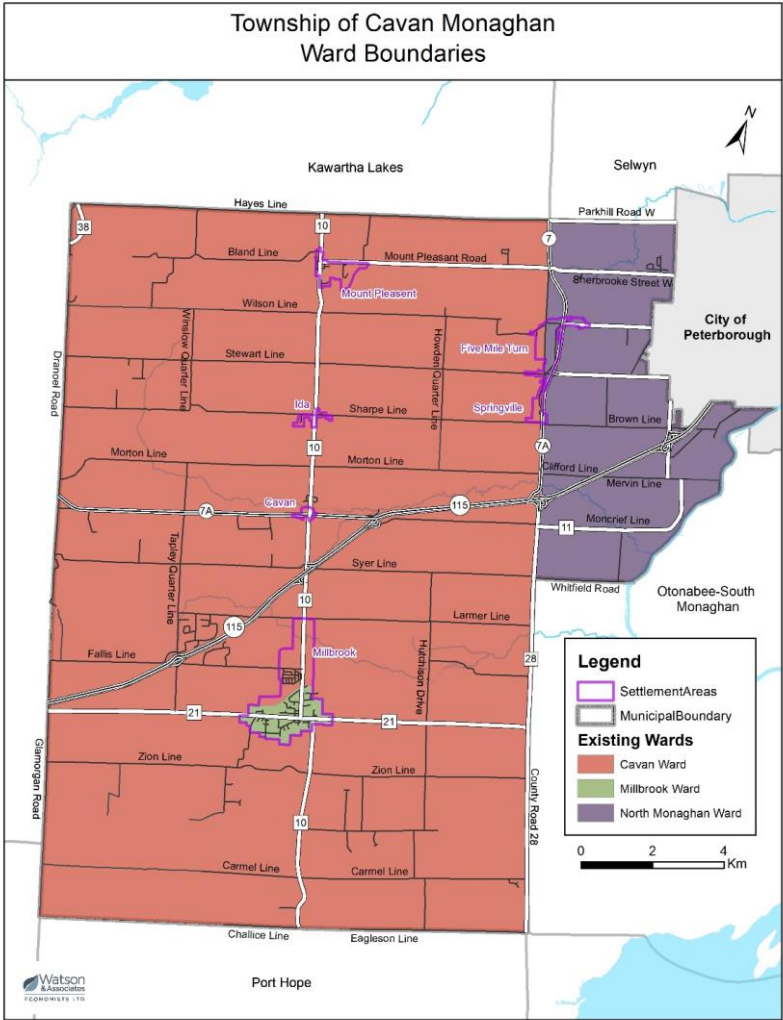
# Phase 1 Assessments (cont'd)



## Preliminary assessment of the present ward system suggests:

- Present wards fail to adhere to the representation by population principle
- Population disparities throughout the wards expected to worsen through the next three election cycles
- Cavan Ward is disproportionately large in terms of both population and geography.
- Wards tend not to have boundaries that accurately reflect communities within—for example, the communities of Five Mile Turn, Springville, and parts of Millbrook are split.
- Some boundaries are unclear and do not make use of man-made or natural features.

# Existing Ward Map



# Effective Representation?



## Overarching principle of “effective representation” means:

- each resident should have comparable access to their elected representative
- each Councillor should speak on behalf of an equal number of residents

Current population disparities between wards are too great making it difficult to achieve effective representation

# Do the Wards Need to Be Changed?



- If the wards do not provide “effective representation” based on the core principles, possible alternatives to “re-divide” the Township will be developed, considering quantitative and qualitative data, and subjected to the same principles
- No ward system design can uniformly meet all the core principles
  - **Which principles have the highest priority in Cavan Monaghan? (survey)**
- Alternatives will be filtered through the set of core principles, case law, and successful models adopted in other municipalities



# Roles of Council



The Consultant Team works at arm's length from Council & staff

- All members of Council were invited to participate in an interview as part of information gathering about the municipality, its communities, and the present political representation arrangements in the municipality.
- Council has the authority to:
  - establish the number of councillors and to determine whether they “shall be elected by general vote or wards or by any combination of general vote and wards.”<sup>1</sup>
  - pass a by-law to “redivide” the wards<sup>2</sup> (by-law includes an appeal period under the Municipal Act<sup>3</sup>)

<sup>1</sup>Municipal Act, 2001 s.217

<sup>2</sup>Municipal Act, 2001 s.222

<sup>3</sup>Municipal Act, 2001 s.223

# A Consultation Process



A municipal electoral system should be subject to a public consultation process to ensure the legitimacy of the recommendations placed before Council

Public engagement activities will be conducted aimed at both informing residents about the review and gathering informed evaluations about the existing system and (later) alternative designs. Several outlets have been designed for residents to safely participate in the review process under public health guidelines

- ✓ Online & Print Engagement (website, social media, newspapers, ads etc.)
- ✓ Survey
- ✓ Virtual Open House Sessions (2x)
- ✓ Public Feedback Analysis
- ✓ Reporting

# Your Contribution to This Review

- Be willing to ask questions at the Open Houses and through the Township's website
- Read the Discussion Paper and other materials on the Township's website to better understand the issues under consideration
- Complete the survey on the Township's website



# Questions?