



INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Planning Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	April 15, 2014
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Permit Fees for Farm Buildings and Greenhouses (PED14058) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

This Information Report is a follow-up to a request made by Councillor Pasuta at the December 3, 2013 Planning Committee Meeting for clarification on how the permit fees currently being charged in the City of Hamilton for Farm Buildings and Greenhouses compare to the fees charged by other area municipalities.

Information:

In response to Councillor Pasuta's request, staff undertook a survey of the current permit fees being charged for Farm Building and Greenhouses by 20 area municipalities. The results of this survey are shown in Table 1 of this report. As can be seen from this table, the 2013 and the new 2014 permit fees for Farm Buildings and Greenhouses in the City of Hamilton are both below the average of the sampled municipalities.

For clarification, the current permit fees, including the ones for Farm Buildings and Greenhouses, are intended to cover the reasonable costs incurred by the Building Division in the administration and enforcement of the Building Code Act; in other words, these costs are covered by the users of the system. This ensures that the Building Code Act activities carried out by the Division are fully cost-recovered and remain a self-funded program within the municipal structure with no reliance placed on the general levy for its operation.

Based on this information, it appears that the current permit fees in the City of Hamilton for Farm Buildings and Greenhouses are reasonable since they are below the average of the 20 area municipalities surveyed.

TABLE 1
Permit Fees for Agricultural Buildings (\$/m²) - 2013

Municipality	Farm Building	Greenhouse
Burlington	\$3.09	\$3.09
Caledon	\$1.10	\$1.10
Cambridge	\$4.84	\$4.84
Fort Erie	\$1.94	\$1.94
Grimsby	\$1.61	\$1.61
Guelph	\$4.20	\$8.72
Halton Hills	\$3.64	\$3.64
Leamington	\$0.22	\$0.22
Lincoln	\$1.72	\$1.40
London	\$2.50	\$2.50
Milton	\$3.16	\$2.53
Niagara Falls	\$3.11	\$3.11
Niagara-on-the-Lake	\$2.91	\$1.72
Oshawa	\$3.49	\$3.49
Pickering	\$3.75	\$3.75
Richmond Hill	\$3.70	\$3.70
St. Catharines	\$3.55	\$3.55
Vaughan	\$3.00	\$3.00
Welland	\$1.83	\$1.83
Whitby	\$2.15	\$2.15
Average	\$2.78	\$2.89

Hamilton (2013 Fee)	\$2.43	\$1.45
Hamilton (2014 Fee)	\$2.49	\$1.49

JMC/sc