



Committee of the Whole Report

Report Number: ED2024-039
Meeting Date: September 10, 2024
Title: **Kawartha Lakes Membership in Farm 911**
Description: Farm 911: The Emily Project encourages farmers to get municipal 911 numbers for secondary field entrances to ensure first responders locate emergencies faster
Author and Title: Kelly Maloney, Economic Development Officer – Agriculture
Susanne Murchison, Chief Building Official

Recommendations:

That Report ED2024-039, **Kawartha Lakes Membership in Farm 911**, be received;

That the membership of the City of Kawartha Lakes within Farm 911: The Emily Project be endorsed; and

That this recommendation be brought forward to Council for approval at the September 24, 2024 Council Meeting.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

Farm 911: The Emily Project began out of a tragic loss of life for young Emily Trudeau, in Northumberland County in 2014 where first responders were delayed in reaching the scene due to a difficulty in identify the appropriate entrance. This in turn brought a committee of volunteers together who asked, how we can we ensure this never happens again? The Emily Project took root and blossomed into a province-wide campaign led by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and several local county Federations in East-Central Ontario. Partnerships between farmers, community organizations, first responders, municipalities, and local businesses have been imperative to the growing success of Farm911. The project has been embraced with open arms, in all corners of the province.

The mission of the project is to improve emergency services in our rural communities, by ensuring landowners can request a civic address from their municipality for entrances to their vacant farm fields.

The project also connects farmers with municipalities and first responders, encouraging sign-up to the project and supporting long lasting relationships for the future. This is a unified project where farm landowners can easily find their own community's information and application forms to request a Farm 911 sign. The program has very effective and recognisable promotion and social media to increase awareness and uptake in an effort to build safer rural communities together.

At the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee Meeting of February 15, 2024, the Committee adopted the following resolution:

Moved By W. MacArthur

Seconded By D. Skrabek

That ADAC recommends Kawartha Lakes join the Farm 911 Project. Carried

The Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Federation of Agriculture sent correspondence dated May, 1, 2024 encouraging the City of Kawartha Lakes to officially join Farm 911: The Emily Project. (Appendix A)

This report addresses these recommendations and requests.

Rationale:

The City of Kawartha Lakes through the Building and Septic Division has offered municipal 911 addressing for secondary field entrances since amalgamation. While this option has been promoted locally from time to time, there has not been general awareness or good uptake. The creation of the Farm 911 project and the province-wide promotion that surrounds it has led to much broader awareness of the need for 911 signing on secondary field entrances. This helps direct first responders closer to the appropriate location of farm emergencies when they are not nearby the main farm entrance but are closer to a secondary field entrance at another location on the farm. Many farm properties do not have any buildings on them and therefore would not have a municipal 911 sign. Others have a main entrance with a 911 number where their 'homestead area' with farm buildings and a residence is located, but they may also have field entrances further down the road or on a sideroad or at the back of the lot which would not have a 911 number assigned.

In consultation between Economic Development, Building and Septic Services, Fire Services, Public Works, Paramedic Services, Kawartha Lakes Police Services, and the City of Kawartha Lakes OPP Detachment, plans to join the Farm 911 project have received support. Within Kawartha Lakes the Farm 911 signs will be yellow in colour to signify that the entrance is a secondary field entrance, signed specifically for emergency locating purposes.

The local Federation of Agriculture notes that "Farm accidents can occur in the most remote locations, making it difficult for first responders to easily locate the emergency. Most vacant farm property entrances do not have civic address signage."

A dedicated application form for secondary farm field entrance municipal 911 address signs has been created which can be found within the Applications, Licences and Permits page of the City Website. This will offer farmers an option to order a sign and post to be installed by a contract installer, or the option to order just the sign which they can install following the established guidelines. This provides an affordable option for just over \$21, further encouraging broader uptake.

The numbering for the Farm 911 signs follows the same system as regular municipal addressing and will also be shared out to the provincial networks for use by emergency services and mapping tools. It will appear in all systems in the same way as regular 911 municipal addresses.

It is the intention, should Council support membership in the Project to launch the awareness campaign at the 2024 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo.

Since membership in the project has no cost, the staff recommendation is to join the Farm 911 Project and benefit from the broader promotion of the program in building awareness.

Other Alternatives Considered:

While the municipality could choose not to join the Farm 911 project, farm landowners may continue to have difficulty in finding and being aware of the opportunity to obtain a secondary field entrance sign. This option is not recommended.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

Joining the Farm 911 Project would be an example of Good Government as found within the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, by encouraging collaboration between farmers, the municipality and first responders to facilitate enhanced ability to locate farm emergencies faster. This would be identified within priority 3 - Build a collaborative, supportive, inclusive and equitable community. Also, the work supports priority 1 – to provide innovative and efficient service delivery for better customer services – promote continuous improvement and innovation to Make it Better in all service areas.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

There are no financial impacts related to joining the Project. The Building and Septic Division already offer municipal addressing applications. There are no additional costs anticipated in providing an alternate application form specific for secondary farm field entrances. With the least cost option for farmers to order just the yellow flag and install the sign themselves for the cost of \$21 as regulated by the Fees By-law, it is anticipated that most will choose this option. There will be minimal impact to the contracted services of the installer which operates on a cost recovery basis.

Consultations:

Resi Walt, Farm 911: The Emily Project Coordinator
Agricultural Development Advisory Committee
Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Federation of Agriculture
Fire Services
Paramedic Services
Kawartha Lakes Police Service
Public Works
The City of Kawartha Lakes OPP Detachment
Manager, Economic Development

Attachments:

Appendix A – Correspondence from Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Federation of Agriculture



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Appendix A

Department Head email: lbarrie@kawarthalakes.ca

Department Head: Leah Barrie, Director, Development Services