

(b) Accessible Design for New Buildings

All new public, commercial, residential, recreational and institutional buildings and facilities will incorporate accessible design, including, but not limited to, elevators where appropriate, automatic door openers, and ramps at building entrances.

(c) Development Review Considerations

In the review of development applications, the Town will address accessibility needs by:

- I. Requiring driveway and sidewalk slopes at a ratio of 1:12, height to length;
- II. Requiring sidewalk curb cuts at all intersections;
- III. Requiring that paving changes (e.g. interlocking brick, tactile strips, etc.) be incorporated at grade changes and intersections;
- IV. Requiring disability parking spaces, as specified in the Zoning by-law;
- V. Encouraging any other features appropriate to ensure that barrier-free design is provided; and
- VI. Where appropriate, circulating the application to an Accessibility Advisory Committee for comment.

(d) Preparation of Guidelines

The Town may prepare specific design guidelines for accessibility and/or ensure that accessible design is addressed when preparing design guidelines for neighbourhoods.

## **3.4 Infrastructure and Utilities**

### **3.4.1 Planning Objectives**

- The Town will ensure there is a sufficient amount of land designated to accommodate infrastructure and utilities.
- The Town will ensure issues related to land use compatibility are addressed.
- The Town will work with appropriate providers to ensure the safe and efficient provision of power, cable and telecommunications in an environmentally acceptable manner.
- The Town is responsible for providing a supply of municipal sanitary sewer and water services within the Town. The Town will work closely with the Province to ensure there is sufficient supply of sanitary and water services to meet long term growth projections outlined in this Plan.
- The Town will ensure all new development within the Townsite occurs on lands with access to full municipal services and necessary utilities. For lands outside of the Townsite, the Town will ensure that development, where necessary, complies with the standards of, and are subject to, the approval of all applicable authorities/agencies.
- The Town aims to improve water quality and reduce stormwater run-off by promoting innovative techniques for stormwater management.

- In the provision of infrastructure and utilities, the Town will encourage the use of innovative techniques and new technology.

### **3.4.2 Policies**

(a) Planned Function

The planned function of the Infrastructure and Utility designation is to allow for the efficient and effective use of land to accommodate utilities and infrastructure.

(b) Permitted Uses

Uses include public and/or privately owned facilities, including water and sanitary sewage facilities, Stormwater Management Facilities, pumping stations, hydro corridors, communications/telecommunications infrastructure and facilities and transmission towers. These facilities are permitted in all land use designations, subject to the Policies of the Plan.

(c) Design

The built form of new infrastructure and utility facilities will be in harmony with the character of the surrounding area and will be appropriately landscaped.

### **3.4.3 Water and Sanitary Sewerage**

(a) General Water Supply

The Town will ensure there is a sufficient supply of water capacity within the treatment plant to serve Fort Frances and accommodate the long term growth projections for Fort Frances.

(b) Water Supply within the Townsite

All new development within the built area is required to be connected to the water system as a condition of development.

(c) General Sanitary Sewerage

The Town will ensure there is a sufficient reserve capacity within the sanitary treatment plant to serve Fort Frances and accommodate the long term growth of Fort Frances.

(d) Sanitary Sewage Supply within the Townsite

All new development within the built area is required to be connected to the sanitary sewage system as a condition of development.

(e) Sewage Outside of the Townsite – Private Services and Systems

- I. New development outside the urban service area of the Townsite shall utilize private sewage disposal and water services.
- II. No development shall be permitted unless it can be shown to the satisfaction of the Municipality that there is an adequate water supply, sewage disposal system and public road access to service the development. In addition, no development shall be permitted unless Council is satisfied that the development will not have an adverse impact on neighbouring wells and sewage disposal systems. In considering impacts on ground water quality and quantity, the Municipality may

require a hydrogeology study that considers among other matters the cumulative impacts of development on the sustainability of ground water resources.

(f) Communal Services

- I. Where full municipal sewage and water services are not or cannot be provided, and site conditions are suitable, communal services may be considered.
- II. Development dependant on communal services may be permitted only where Council is prepared to either assume ownership of communal services, or to enter into a responsibility agreement provided for municipal ownership in the event of default.
- III. The Municipality will consider approving development on communal services only where there is a legal mechanism to ensure that the municipal responsibility and liability related to the ownership, operation and maintenance of such a system is protected and that sufficient financial securities are in place to protect the municipality.
- IV. Any new development on communal services shall be consistent with Policy 1.6.4.1 of the 2005 Provincial Policy Statement to ensure that:
  - the communal systems can be sustained by the existing water resources;
  - is financially viable;
  - protects human health and the natural environment; and
  - is integrated with land use and phasing of the development.

#### **3.4.4 Stormwater**

(a) Stormwater Water Management Plan

A Stormwater Water Management Plan and Sediment Erosion Control Plan, prepared and signed by a qualified engineer, may be required depending on the scale, location and other site specific issues related to a proposed development.

(b) Innovative Techniques

The Town encourages the use of innovative techniques to reduce the need for large stormwater management facilities, thereby reducing run-off and improving water quality. Innovative techniques include, but are not limited to, rainwater harvesting systems (rain barrels and cisterns), green roofs, landscape systems and vegetated swales, downspout disconnection and permeable surfaces.

(c) Location

Stormwater Management Facilities should generally be located at the edge of neighbourhoods; at the interface with natural areas; and/or within large public open spaces, including community parks. Stormwater Management Facilities should not be located within the Natural Area.

(d) Naturalization

Where appropriate, Stormwater Management Facilities shall be naturalized, making use of native plants and species.

(e) Integration

Stormwater Management Facilities shall be designed to have a high level of public exposure and should be integrated in, and contribute to, the enhancement of the neighbourhood's public realm.

(f) Safety

The design and layout of Stormwater Management Facilities shall address issues related to safety and shall be designed with gentle slopes in areas with direct access. Areas with steeper slopes shall not have direct access and shall be designed to include overhangs, railings and dense plantings.

### 3.4.5 Power, Telecommunications and Other Cabled Services

(a) Location

New development will have local service power lines, communications/ telecommunications infrastructure and other cabled services located underground in road rights-of-way, where feasible.

(b) Land Use Compatibility

The Town will encourage utility installations for telecommunications towers to be located outside of residential areas, where feasible. In instances where the facilities are of a scale and function which is perceived to present significant issues related to land use compatibility, infrastructure which must be located within residential areas or within close proximity to residential areas shall be designed to be compatible with the adjacent and surrounding land uses.

(c) Design

Where feasible, the Town will seek to have local service power lines, communications/telecommunications infrastructure and other cabled services located underground. Above ground shall be sited to reduce their visual impact on the streetscape and/or screened using street furniture and landscaping. The Town encourages utility providers to consider innovative methods of containing utility services within streetscape features such as gateways, lamp posts, transit shelters, etc., when determining appropriate locations for large utility equipment and utility cluster sites.

(d) Location and Siting of Large Utility Equipment

The Town will ensure that appropriate locations for large utility equipment and cluster site have been determined and that consideration be given to locational requirements for larger infrastructure within public rights-of-way, as well as easements on private property.

(e) Permissions

Utility infrastructure shall be permitted in all land use designations, subject of the policies of this Plan.

(f) Servicing

The Town will ensure that adequate utility networks, are or will be, established to serve the anticipated development through discussions with public and/or private utility providers.

(g) Coordination

The Town encourages all utilities to be planned for and installed in a coordinated and integrated basis in order to be more efficient, cost effective and minimize disruptions.

(h) Communication Towers

The Municipality of Fort Frances recognizes that the installation of communication towers is required to supply, improve, and maintain the quality of service. Communication towers of 16.5 m in height or greater are designated as a structure under the Ontario Building Code and will be subject to building permits, as well as regulations under the Zoning By-law.

Local zoning by-laws cannot prevent a telecommunication tower from being constructed, since the Federal Government has the approval authority under the *Radio Communications Act*. Industry Canada recognizes the importance of considering the potential impact of communication towers on the adjacent surroundings and the community. A proponent seeking to establish a communications tower shall work with the Municipality, seek input from the community, and meet the requirements as set out in the *Radio Communications Act*.

### 3.4.6 Power Generation Facilities and Green Energy

Fort Frances will encourage and support alternative and renewable-source energy generation facilities which are developed in accordance with this Plan and Provincial and Federal legislation, policies, and regulations. Proposed developments will be encouraged to locate in areas where their adverse impacts on adjacent lands and natural features are minimized and mitigated to the greatest extent possible. Where feasible and practical, power generation facilities which are primarily buildings (e.g. cogeneration plant) may be encouraged to develop on brownfield sites. When evaluating proposals for alternative energy generation facilities the Town will consider the following:

- a) Location of facility;
- b) Size and scale of proposed facility;
- c) Potential for land use compatibility issues with adjacent land uses and potential for adverse impacts related to air, noise, odour, vibration, etc.;
- d) Potential for perceived risks to human health and safety; and
- e) Any additional considerations.

For highway safety reasons, wind turbines located adjacent to a provincial highway will be set back a minimum distance measured from the limit of the highway property line equal to the distance of the height of the wind turbine structure plus the length of one blade.

Developments which fall under the jurisdiction of the Green Energy Act do not require an Amendment to this Plan.

### 3.4.7 Energy Conservation

Fort Frances shall encourage and support energy conservation, district heating and combined heat and power, and the on-site use of alternative and renewable energy sources developed in accordance with Provincial and Federal legislation, policies, and

regulations, and where all potential negative impacts to adjacent lands are mitigated. The Town will also encourage the application of energy conservation measures in the infrastructure and utility servicing of new buildings and in the rehabilitation and upgrading of existing neighbourhoods, buildings and structures. The Town will encourage and support water conservation methods (such as efficient landscape irrigation, low water consumption fixtures, etc.) in the development of new sites and buildings and in the rehabilitation and upgrading of existing sites and buildings. The Town may establish energy conservation design guidelines to encourage, or require, future development to implement energy conservation measures.

#### **3.4.8 Site Plan Control**

The development of all new infrastructure and utilities are subject to Site Plan Control.

### **3.5 Gateway Policies**

There are three main approaches into Fort Frances. The east-west approaches are along King's Highway No. 11 while the approach from the south is via the International Bridge between International Falls and Fort Frances. The International Bridge traffic connects with Church Street, Central Avenue and eventually with the King's Highway.

These important corridors are gateway entrances into Fort Frances and provide potential economic benefits to the Town. The Town wishes to capture this traffic by providing a welcoming entrance into Fort Frances, with the intent of increasing the time spent in the Town by the travelling public. The Town recognizes that there are unsightly existing uses along these important corridors and it will work with the land owners to relocate these uses to a more appropriate land use designation away from the corridors.

The Plan includes a Gateway Economic Overlay at the three main entrances into the Town of Fort Frances. The Gateway Economic Overlay designation is planned to be a specialized employment area for businesses related to transportation and logistics, including facilities related to shipping and receiving, warehouses, major offices, manufacturers' showrooms, prestige manufacturing, light other similar uses. Minor retail, personal and professional services, commercial uses which are scaled to meet the needs of the employees within the immediate area are also permitted. Educational institutions that are complimentary to the aforementioned uses are also permitted. There shall be no outside storage of raw goods, materials or waste materials.

#### **3.5.1 Design**

Gateway Economic Area uses should be planned and designed to reflect the important role they play in serving the Town, the Rainy River District and Ontario. Gateway Economic Area uses should have high quality exteriors and landscaping. Gateway Economic Area uses at the convergence of transportation corridors will be encouraged to incorporate high quality, but unobtrusive, signage, architectural detailing on the principal building, and/or landscaping. The Gateway Economic Area, given its important locational characteristic, will be required to accommodate a high degree of streetscaping. The design of Gateway Economic Area uses should be pedestrian-friendly, barrier-free and accessible. Where outdoor storage is allowed as a previously existing use, it shall be screened using fencing and/or plantings so that the storage area or materials are not