

TOWN OF PELHAM

Council Composition, Ward Boundary Review and Deputy Mayor Selection Study

Presentation of Preliminary Report
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Regulatory framework

- Ontario municipalities have wide decision-making authority over council composition
- Decisions (or non-decisions) can be appealed to Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT)
- OLT has generally adopted “effective representation” as its standard; includes consideration of voter parity (+ or - 25% of average population), communities of interest; representation of minorities

Council size

- We researched municipalities of similar size in Ontario and rest of Canada
- 7 is the most common number, especially for municipalities (like Pelham) that are not the result of amalgamations in the 1990s and 2000s

At-large elections

- Absence of wards is quite common among municipalities with similar populations to Pelham
- If 5 councillors are elected at-large, voters have 5 votes (in addition to mayor)
- We review arguments for and against in the report
- Wards and at-large elections can be combined

Selecting a Deputy Mayor

- Position is not referred to in the Ontario Municipal Act
- Some councils rotate the position among council members for varying periods of time
- Others provide for the direct election of a deputy mayor by all voters, in the same way as a mayor is elected

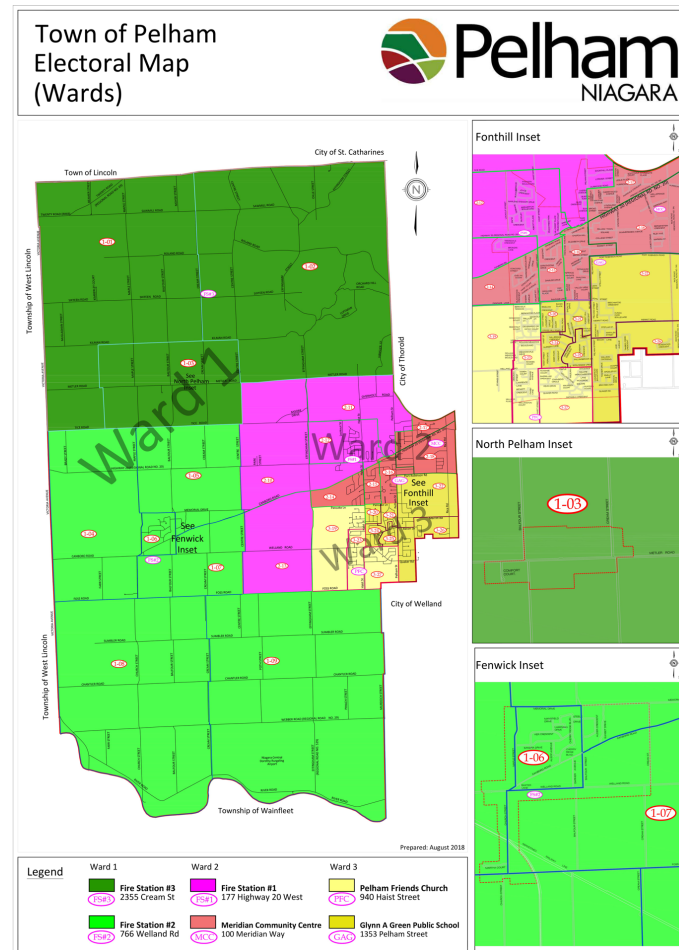
3 reasons for direct election

- Where councillors are elected by wards, adds a council member dependent on votes from throughout the municipality
- Provides for a mayoral substitute or helper who has enhanced democratic legitimacy
- Can serve as a delegate to an upper-tier regional or county government

A deputy mayor for Pelham?

- First two reasons could well be relevant for Pelham; we want to find out people's views
- Third reason is not relevant because in Niagara and Waterloo regions, regional councillors are directly elected from each municipality to serve only at the regional level
- No municipalities in Niagara or Waterloo have a deputy mayor
- But this option remains open for Pelham

Current wards in Pelham



Determining populations

- Use latest census (2021) at the dissemination block level (smallest geographic unit)
- Incorporate information from Pelham planning department on housing developments in various stages of the approval process
- Develop population estimates for 2023 and forecasts for municipal election years 2024, 2026, and 2030

Current 3 ward model

Figure 1. Current 3 Ward Model

	2023		2026		2030		2034	
Ward No.	Population	% above or below	Population	% above or below	Population	% above or below	Population	% above or below
1. Rural/Fenwick	5650	-10.8%	5785	-16.9%	5918	-21.6%	6031	-25.1%
2. Northwest Fonthill	6769	6.9%	7570	8.7%	8275	9.6%	8930	10.9%
3. Southeast Fonthill	6586	4.0%	7542	8.3%	8455	12.0%	9201	14.2%
<i>Total</i>	19005		20897		22648		24162	
<i>Average</i>	6335		6966		7549		8054	

Revised 3 ward model

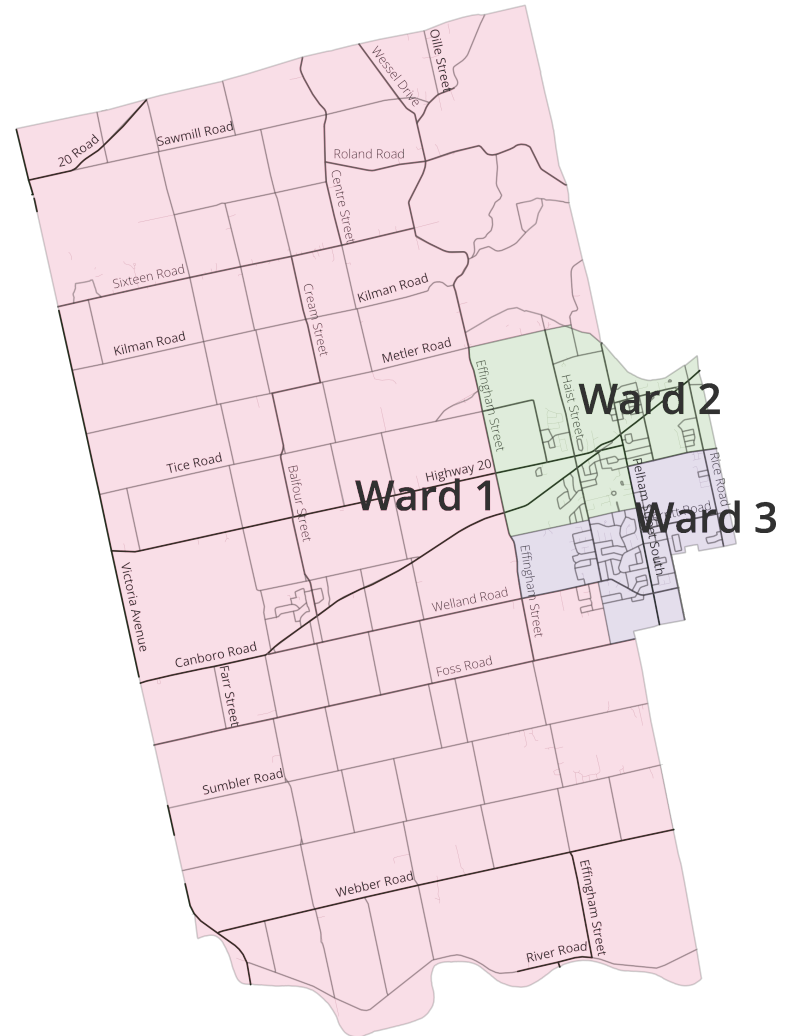


Figure 2. Revised 3 Ward Model

	2023		2026		2030		2034	
Ward No.	Population	% above or below	Population	% above or below	Population	% above or below	Population	% above or below
1. Rural	6817	7.6%	6952	-0.2%	7085	-6.2%	7198	-10.6%
2. Northwest Fonhill	6166	-2.7%	6967	0.0%	7672	1.6%	8327	3.4%
3. Southeast Fonhill	6022	-4.9%	6978	0.2%	7891	4.5%	8637	7.2%
<i>Total</i>	19005		20897		22648		24162	
<i>Average</i>	6335		6966		7549		8054	

Revised 3 ward model

4 ward model

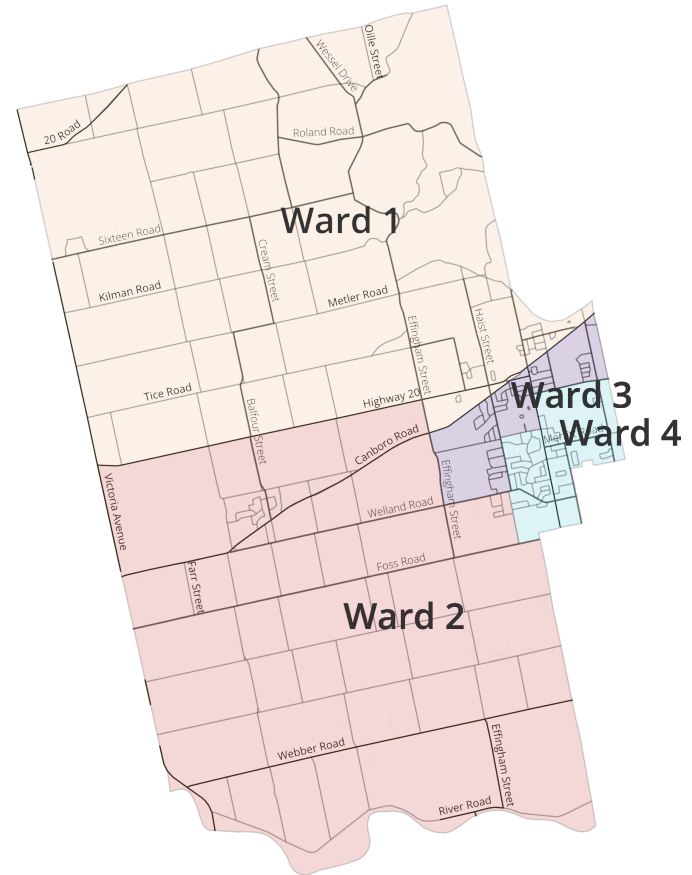


Figure 3. Four Ward Model

	2023		2026		2030		2034	
Ward No.	Population	% above or below	Population	% above or below	Population	% above or below	Population	% above or below
1. North	5104	7.4%	5144	-1.5%	5167	-8.7%	5183	-14.2%
2. South	4838	1.8%	4973	-4.8%	5106	-9.8%	5219	-13.6%
3. Northwest Fonthill	4008	-15.6%	4833	-7.5%	5554	-1.9%	6219	3.0%
4. Southeast Fonthill	5055	6.4%	5947	13.8%	6821	20.5%	7541	24.8%
<i>Total</i>	19005		20897		22648		24162	
<i>Average</i>	4751		5224		5662		6041	

4 ward model

5 ward model

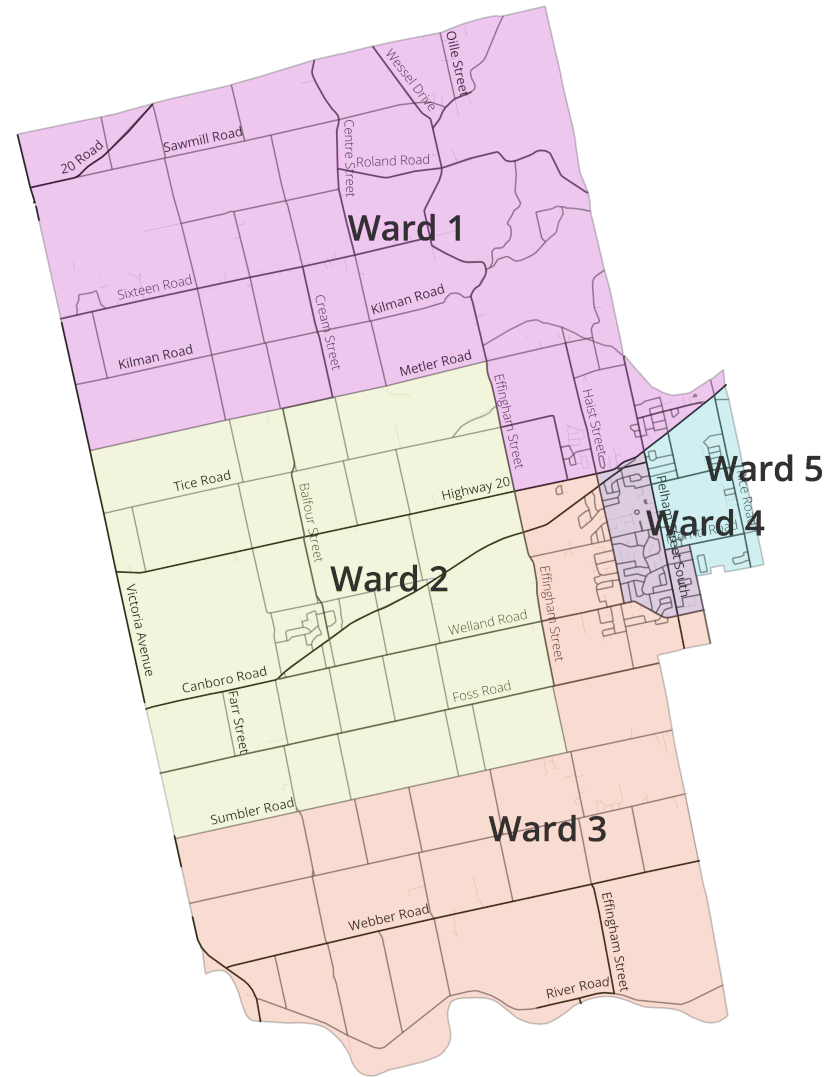


Figure 4. Five Ward Model

	2023		2026		2030		2034	
Ward No.	Population	% above or below	Population	% above or below	Population	% above or below	Population	% above or below
1. North	4029	6.0%	4069	-2.6%	4092	-9.7%	4108	-15.0%
2. Fenwick	3895	2.5%	4030	-3.6%	4163	-8.1%	4276	-11.5%
3. South	4214	10.9%	4315	3.2%	4376	-3.4%	4414	-8.7%
4. Centre Fonthill	4198	10.4%	4364	4.4%	4523	-0.1%	4658	-3.6%
5. East Fonthill	2669	-29.8%	4119	-1.4%	5494	21.3%	6705	38.8%
<i>Total</i>	19005		20897		22648		24161	
<i>Average</i>	3801		4179		4530		4832	

5 ward model

6 ward model

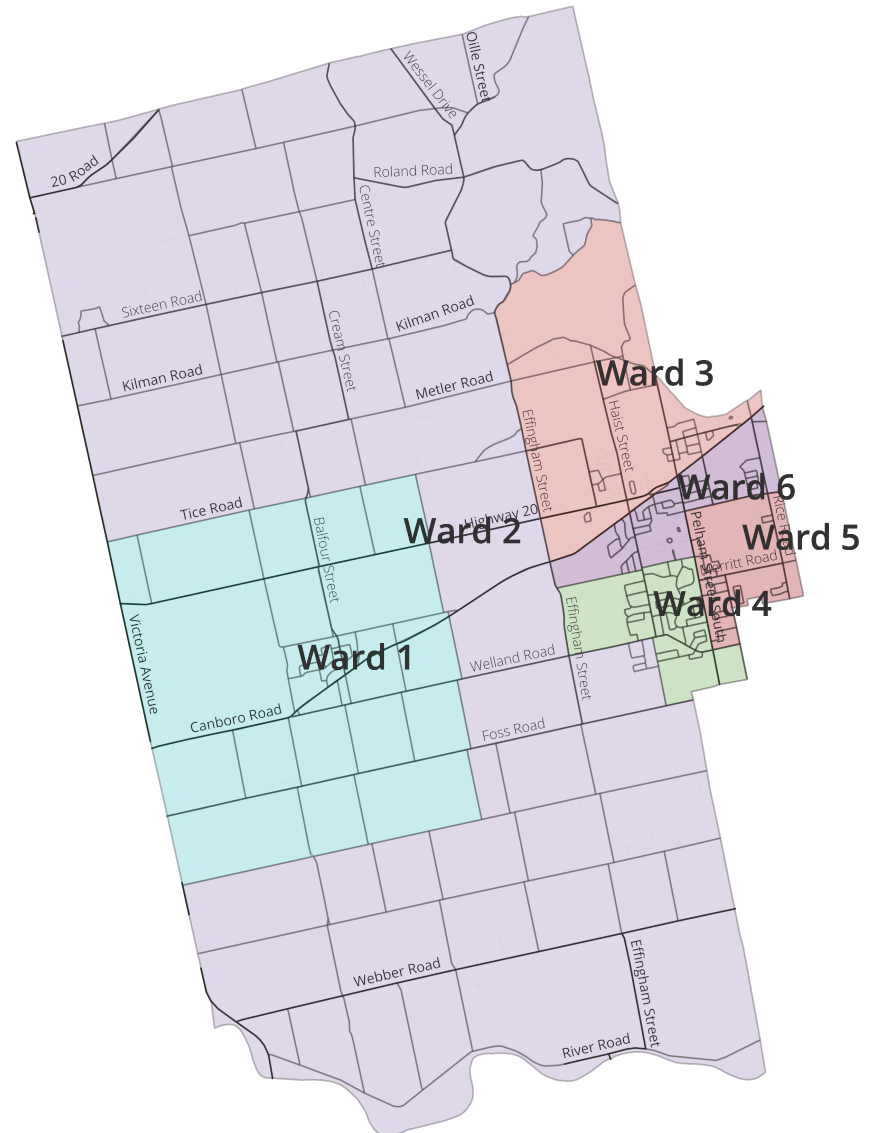


Figure 5. Six Ward Model

	2023		2026		2030		2034	
Ward No.	Population	% above or below	Population	% above or below	Population	% above or below	Population	% above or below
1. Fenwick	3025	-4.5%	3160	-9.3%	3293	-12.8%	3406	-15.4%
2. Rural	3698	16.7%	3698	6.2%	3698	-2.0%	3698	-8.2%
3. North Fonthill	3219	1.6%	3259	-6.4%	3282	-13.1%	3298	-18.1%
4. West Fonthill	3629	14.6%	3831	10.0%	3951	4.7%	4030	0.1%
5. Southeast Fonthill	2393	-24.5%	3147	-9.6%	3940	4.4%	4607	14.4%
6. Centre Fonthill	3042	-4.0%	3802	9.2%	4484	18.8%	5123	27.2%
<i>Total</i>	19006		20897		22648		24162	
<i>Average</i>	3168		3483		3775		4027	

6 ward model



Next steps

- Interviews with councillors, mayor, senior leadership team
- 2 public meetings:
 - Feb. 12th 6:00 - 8:00 pm at Pelham Fire Station #2
 - Feb. 27th 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Meridian Community Centre
- We are open to any proposals that we think could be defended at OLT
- Visit the project webpage at EngagingPelham or communicate with us by email: asancton@uwo.ca