



**CITY OF BATHURST**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**MINUTES**

**Monday, September 8, 2025**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Council Chambers - City Hall**

Recording of Attendance	Mayor K. Chamberlain Deputy Mayor D. Knowles Councillor P. Anderson Councillor S. Brunet Councillor R. Hondas Councillor S. Legacy Councillor M. Skerry Councillor M. Willett
Absent	Councillor D. Branch Councillor J.-F. LeBlanc
Appointed Officials	T. Pettigrew, CAO A. Parker, City Clerk J.-S. Chiasson, Communications Officer M. A. LaPlante, Assistant City Manager S. Morton, Director of Human Resources C. Roy, Executive Administrator A. MacLaggan Director of Engineering

**1. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

**2. PUBLIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

**2.1 2026 Community Support Grant Request Presentations**

**2.1.1 Bathurst Art Society**

A presentation was received from the Bathurst Art Society (BAS) regarding their application for a \$7,000 grant from the City of Bathurst for fiscal year 2026.

BAS representatives explained that the funding will support the operating costs of the Bay Breeze Art Gallery. The grant will allow BAS to continue promoting awareness of visual arts and strengthening community partnerships, particularly with La Promenade Waterfront and Downtown Bathurst Revitalization Corporation (DBRC).

The Society emphasized that, as a non-profit, it relies on volunteer members, commissions from art sales, community sponsors, donations, and NB SEED program funding for summer

students. The grant would help maintain the gallery, support community events, and deliver learning programs accessible to individuals of all ages and experience levels.

It was noted that the 2024 Annual Financial Report was submitted with the application. BAS acknowledged receipt of a \$7,000 City grant in 2025 and expressed gratitude for the cultural discount on the gallery's rent. However, they reported a decline in sales in 2025 due to cautious consumer spending and highlighted the importance of continued municipal support.

### **2.1.2 Bathurst Heritage Museum**

The Bathurst Heritage Trust Commission Inc., which operates the Bathurst Heritage Museum, has submitted a request for a grant in the amount of \$22,000 to assist with annual operating costs, specifically hydro, water/sewer, and insurance. Incorporated in 1989, the organization has operated the museum at 360 Douglas Avenue since 2003 in the former Nepisiguit Centennial Library, a building constructed in 1967 and gifted to the Commission by the City. The City has provided ongoing operational support since 2004. The museum is run primarily by volunteers and carries no payroll costs, while provincial grants received are restricted to specific purposes, such as summer student wages, and do not support general operations.

The museum plays an important role in preserving and presenting the region's founding cultures, with dedicated displays on Indigenous, Acadian, Irish, and Scottish heritage, as well as other groups that settled in the area. In addition, its genealogy and archives department assists residents and visitors with family history research. The organization also hosts a variety of cultural and community activities, including art shows, tea parties, concerts, scavenger hunts for children, and school visits. Attendance has grown significantly, from approximately 700 visitors annually to more than 4,000.

In recent years, with support from provincial CIF grants, the museum has completed a number of infrastructure improvements, including accessibility upgrades, installation of a digital research room, lighting and electrical upgrades, flooring replacement, and general building repairs. Looking ahead, the organization has identified further needs, such as replacing aging heat pumps, converting additional washrooms to accessible facilities, and installing a permanent exterior ramp.

The Bathurst Heritage Museum highlights local history, strengthens the City's identity, and contributes to arts, culture, education, and tourism. Its continued operation provides both residents and visitors with accessible programming and opportunities to engage with the community's heritage.

### **2.1.3 Bathurst Hospitality Days**

The organizers of Bathurst Hospitality Days submitted a request for a grant of \$50,000 to support the continuation and growth of the event. Hospitality Days provides an opportunity for former residents to return home during the summer, reconnect with family and high school classmates, and celebrate together. The festival also plays an important role in showcasing Bathurst to tourists, creating seasonal employment opportunities for students—five of whom were hired in 2025—and generating economic benefits for the City through increased visitation and event participation. In addition, the festival serves as a community fundraiser, while offering activities for residents of all ages, from seniors to children. Organizers noted that the event fosters team building and mentoring of younger generations to eventually take on leadership roles. As the festival evolves, public expectations for entertainment and programming continue to grow, leading to higher costs. The organizers stressed that continued support from the City of Bathurst, along with other partners, is essential to sustaining and enhancing this long-standing tradition.

#### **2.1.4 Chaleur #640 Air Cadets**

The Royal Canadian Air Cadets (RCAC) submitted a request for a grant of \$5,200 to support their youth programs. The mission of the RCAC is to develop young people into responsible citizens by fostering interest in aviation, leadership, and physical fitness through a safe and challenging program. The program serves youth aged 12 to 18 and offers a wide range of activities, including aviation and aerospace training, survival skills, drill, first aid, team-building exercises, sports nights, and participation in Remembrance Day ceremonies, among others. The requested funds would help cover the costs of training and activities, as well as essential equipment such as tents, handheld radios, sports equipment, model plane kits, water rocket sets, and cooking stoves.

#### **2.1.5 Chaleur Planet Youth**

Chaleur Planet Youth submitted a funding request of \$41,556 to the City of Bathurst. This amount includes \$17,420 for the design and production of a community awareness campaign, and \$24,136 to support participation in the Program. The organization aims to prevent youth substance use by promoting safe and healthy environments that support their well-being.

The project will be carried out in several phases: a student survey in Fall 2025, analysis of results and setting of community goals in Winter–Spring 2026, and implementation of actions in Summer–Fall 2026.

The awareness campaign will include a locally adapted information brochure, a new website section, a social media presence, and three billboards, with the theme based on the survey results. Campaign development is scheduled from April to September 2026, with a launch in October, promotion in October–November, and a final report to Council by December 1, 2026.

The Planet Youth Orientation Program will provide advanced training, data analysis, and specialized support. Expected outcomes include healthier and safer youth, stronger community connections, positive visibility, and long-term savings.

### **2.2 Miramichi Avenue by Roy Consultants**

The City has identified Miramichi Avenue as a priority project under the Provincial-Municipal Highway Partnership Program for the coming years. Prior to initiating the design phase, the Engineering Department requested that Roy Consultants conduct a traffic needs assessment to ensure the proposed road design reflects actual traffic volumes and operational requirements. The resulting report details the methodology and standards applied and presents a recommended design.

The study recommends reducing the number of lanes from four to two along most sections of the street. This adjustment would generate an estimated construction cost savings of approximately \$1.2 million over the full length of the project, as well as annual maintenance savings of about \$30,000.

It is therefore recommended that Council approve the findings of the Miramichi Avenue Lane Reduction Study, which proposes reducing the number of lanes from four to three between Bridge Street and Rough Waters Drive, and from four to two between Rough Waters Drive and Victor Street.

Council will have to discuss the possibility of requesting an estimated cost for a full three-lane configuration, accompanied by conceptual sketches. Should Council choose to proceed with this

option, the Engineering Department could then convey how the city wishes to move forward with the design process.

### **2.3 Update on Public Transportation by the Regional Service Commission**

The Chaleur Regional Service Commission provided an update on the Bathurst transportation project, including the projected timeline and estimated costs. The Northwest Regional Service Commission, which has integrated its bus services through FlexGo, also participated in the presentation. FlexGo outlined its background and history, followed by an overview of various market options such as traditional bus service, on-demand transit, hybrid, and mixed-service models.

They also shared lessons learned from their previous experience, discussed the agile approach and reservation flexibility, and presented the proposed three-phase plan. Clarifications were made to address common misconceptions, and the financial outlook was reviewed. The presentation concluded with an explanation of the benefits of FlexGo's concept — “one name, one image, one service.”

### **3. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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Amy-Lynn Parker, CITY CLERK