

**STAFF REPORT:
ADMINISTRATION**



REPORT TO: Council

MEETING DATE: May 25, 2011

REPORT NO.: SPS.11.5

SUBJECT: Agricultural Advisory
Committee-Resolution Chesley
High School program

PREPARED BY: Peter Tollefsen, Director of
Special Projects (Sustainability)

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive the Staff Report SPS.11.5 “Agricultural Advisory Committee-Resolution Chesley High School”, and;

THAT Council pass the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Town of The Blue Mountains believes the closing of the Specialist High Skills major Program – Agriculture at Chesley District High School is very inconsistent with the current movements for environmental sustainability and local food production by failing to train and provide the agricultural providers of the next generation, and

WHEREAS the (Grey, Bruce) County Federation of Agriculture welcomed and supported this Agricultural Program as making a meaningful contribution to preparing our students for a future in agriculture, as well as providing lasting benefits to the families and the economy of the Grey-Bruce area, and

WHEREAS the Agricultural program is dependent on the availability of a barn and cropland, both of which are uniquely well-situated at the existing location of the Chesley District High School,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED that the Town of The Blue Mountains urges that the retaining of the Agricultural Program be a primary focus in any decision of the Bluewater District School Board, as it relates to the Chesley District high School.

B. Background

Attached to the Council Agenda of May 25, 2011 are the Minutes from the April 5, 2011 meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee. You will note on item #4 that a Resolution was passed for the support of the retention of an Agricultural program at Chesley District High School. The Bluewater School Board is currently conducting an Accommodation Review for the area that includes an Agricultural program, which may mean the possible re-location or changed usage of the school.

This Agricultural program at Chesley District High School is available to students across the Bluewater Board and currently there are 4 students from other schools attending. No one is attending from The Blue Mountains area.

The Motion of the Agricultural Advisory Committee requested that their resolution be forwarded to the Town of The Blue Mountains Council for a resolution of support, which is the purpose of this report.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

By supporting education programs that connect our youth to the agricultural initiatives meets Goals 3 *"Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features, and cultural heritage of the community."* And 4 *"Supporting the development of social and recreational programs to meet the broad range of needs in the community"*.

D. Environmental Impacts

N/A

E. Budget Impact

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Tollefsen, Director of Special Projects (Sustainability)

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