



**February 22, 2021**

TO: Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Queens Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1  
By-email to: Honourable Doug Ford  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

AND TO: The Corporation of the Township of Baldwin  
11 Spooner Street, P.O. Box 7095  
Mckerrow, ON P0P 1M0  
By-email to: Karin Bates, Clerk  
[karin@baldwin.ca](mailto:karin@baldwin.ca)

**Re: Closure of the Ontario Fire College located in Gravenhurst, Ontario**

Dear Honourable Ford At its regular council meeting held on February 16, 2021, the Council of the Town of Essex reviewed the Township of Bladwin's request for support in regards to its request (see attached) for the Province to reconsider its decision to close the Ontario Fire College located in Gravenhurst. Accordingly the following resolution was passed:

**R21-02-061**

**Moved by:** Councilor Bondy

**Seconded By:** Councilor Garon

*That the correspondence from the Township of Baldwin dated February 1, 2021, requesting that the Province of Ontario reconsider the decision to close the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst, Ontario, be received and supported and that a Letter of Support be sent to the Province and the Township of Baldwin. "Carried".*



The Ontario Fire College is one of the best and most cost-effective methods for municipalities to train their firefighters which assists communities in protecting residents. It is our information that the College annually trains in the range of 2,000 – 2,500 students per year and as such the Ontario Fire College remains the most cost effective method to certify Firefighters to National Fire protection Association (NFPA) standards. We respectfully ask that this decision be re-considered.

I trust you will find this satisfactory, but if you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Auger", written in a cursive style.

Robert W. Auger, L.L.B.  
Town Solicitor, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk  
[rauger@essex.ca](mailto:rauger@essex.ca)

Please cc Fire chief Arnel



The Corporation of the  
**TOWNSHIP OF BALDWIN**

P.O. Box 7095, 11 Spooner Street  
MCKERROW, ONTARIO POP 1M0  
TEL: (705) 869-0225 FAX: (705) 869-5049  
CLERK: Karin Bates – karin@baldwin.ca

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MOVED BY: JOANNE BOUCHER DATE: February 1, 2021

SECONDED BY: DAVID FURBER MOTION NO.: 21- 013

WHEREAS the province wants to mandate training levels for Fire Fighters and now wishes to close the Ontario Fire College located in Gravenhurst, Ontario which has been used for many Government agencies such as Ministry of Transportation, Ontario Provincial Police, Fire Fighters, both full time and volunteer; and

WHEREAS only a small percentage of our department has any formal training and are responsible to train junior fire fighters with the minimal training we receive; and

WHEREAS as volunteers, we are on call 24/7/365 with day jobs and families that expect us to come home safely each and every time; and

WHEREAS the Fire College makes top tier training accessible to all Fire Departments in Ontario; and

WHEREAS municipalities are mandated to have fire departments, yet there is no provincial or federal funding for volunteer fire departments for much needed equipment and training; and

WHEREAS without a plan in place it is irresponsible to close down a vital training centre that serves Ontario and it would put Municipalities at risk which is shortsighted and not acceptable.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The Corporation of the Township of Baldwin requests the Province of Ontario to reconsider closing this all-important facility for dollars over lives.

Carried ✓ Defeated \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor PK