Municipality of Lambton Shores
Council Composition and Ward Boundary Review

Public Consultation

November 2020

Regulatory framework

- Ontario municipalities have wide decision-making authority over council composition

- Decisions (or non-decisions) can be appealed to LPAT

- LPAT 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
- None have councils with more than 9 members; most have fewer
- Only Ontario lower-tier ones with similar populations to Lambton Shores having 9 members are Kincardine and Rideau Lakes
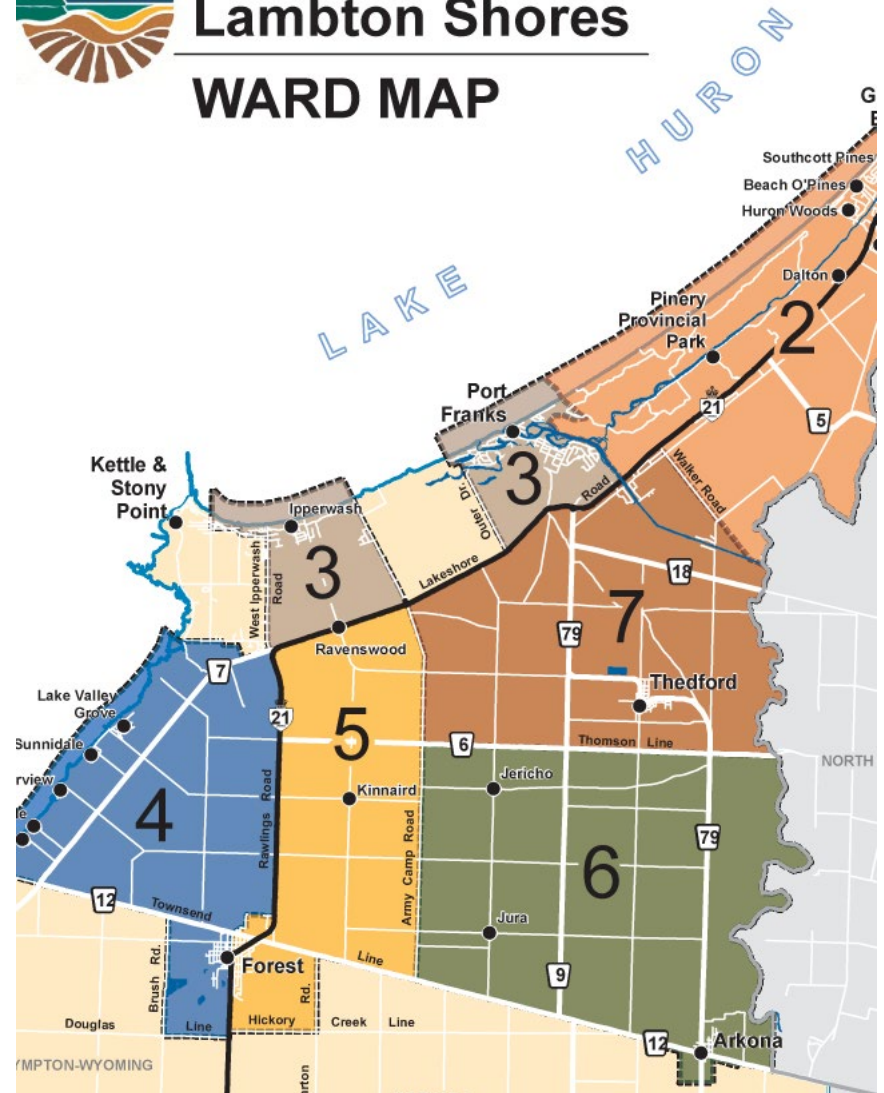
At-large elections

- Absence of wards is very common among municipalities with similar populations to Lambton Shores
- If 5 councillors are elected at-large, voters have 5 votes (in addition to mayor and deputy mayor)
- Wards and at-large elections can be combined

Current wards in Lambton Shores

Determining populations

- Preferred method is latest census (2016)
- Census does not count seasonal residents who are property-owners or long-term renters
- But non-permanent property-owners and long-term renters (and spouses) can vote in Ontario municipal elections
- LPAT decisions say these non-permanent people must be accounted for in drawing ward boundaries

Counting non-permanent residents

- Census enables us to determine the number of private dwellings in each "dissemination block" (smallest census unit) occupied by non-permanent residents
- But how many people are in each such unit?
- 3.66 is often used as a multiplier, but we explain why we prefer 2.49; this is the multiplier we have used

Adjusted populations

For whatever territory we want to look at:

Adjusted population = 2016 census population + ([total private dwellings – private dwellings occupied by usual residents] x 2.49)
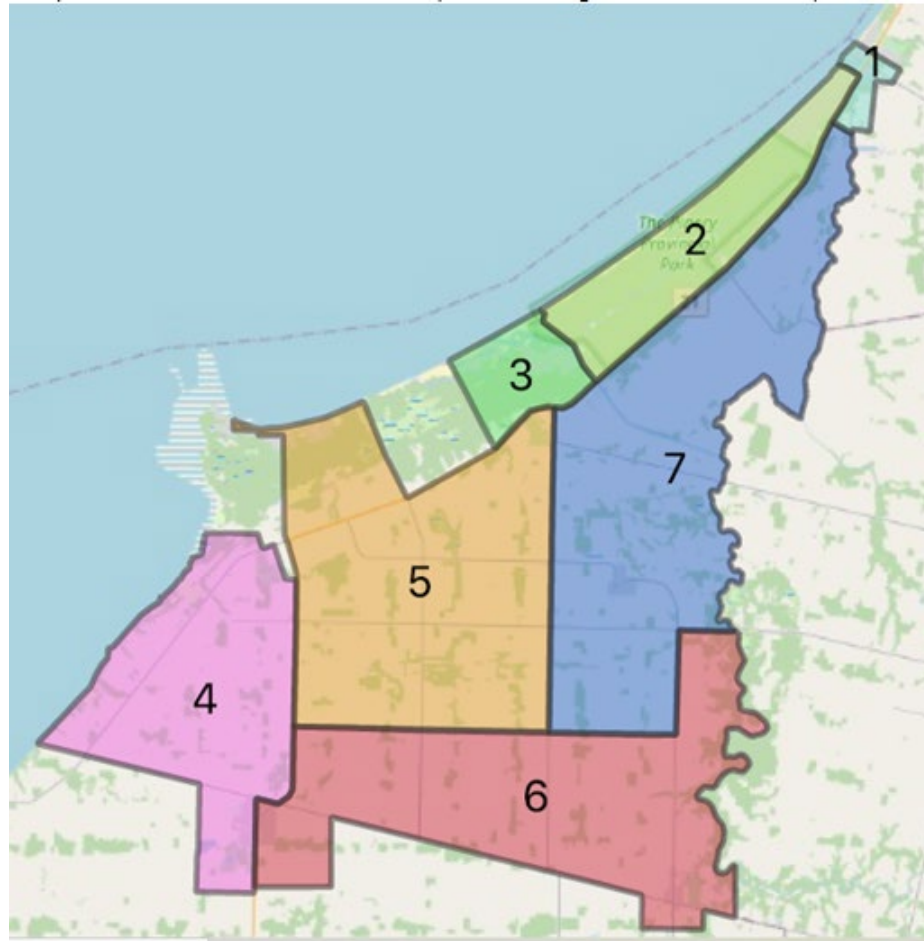
Current system violates "voter parity"

Ward	2016 census population	2016 census population adjusted for seasonal residents	Percent above or below average	2018 number of electors who were permanent residents	2018 total number of electors	Proportion of total electors (%)	Proportion of population adjusted for seasonal residents
1	1170	2672	+16.2	900	1753	15.6	16.6
2	1924	2981	+29.7	1306	2140	19.0	18.5
3	1331	3402	+48.0	1157	2474	21.9	21.1
4	1842	2272	-1.2	1141	1474	13.1	14.1
5	1822	1923	-16.4	1188	1269	11.3	11.9
6	1090	1129	-50.9	728	796	7.1	7.0
7	1444	1714	-25.4	1163	1373	12.2	10.7
TOTALS	10623	16093		7583	11279	100.2	99.9
Average	1518	2299		1083	1611		

We present 5 options as starting points for discussion

- **Option 1**: 7 member council:
  - Mayor
  - Deputy Mayor
  - 5 councillors elected at-large
- Because no boundaries need to be drawn, counting of permanent and non-permanent residents not necessary
- All councillors represent everybody, but some places might have no councillor living in their area
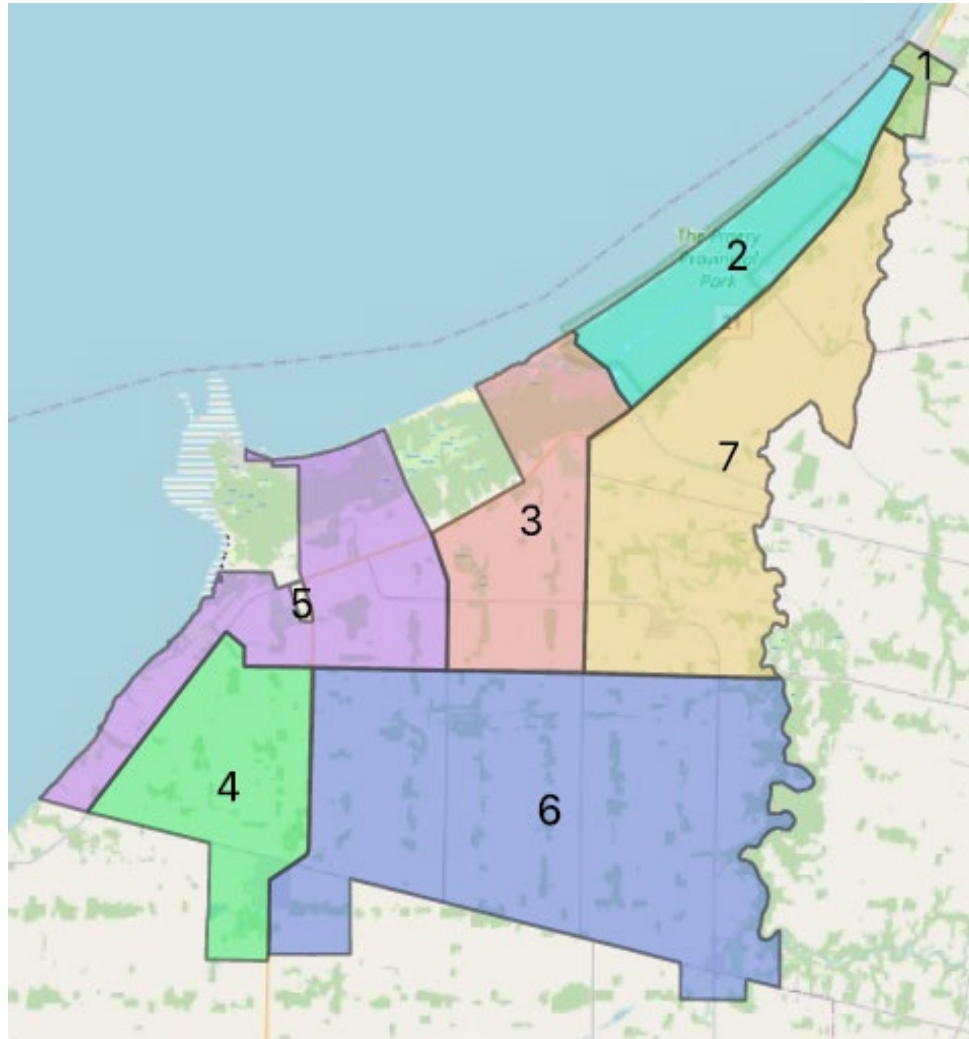
Option 2: Modified current 7-ward system

Option 2: Adjusted populations

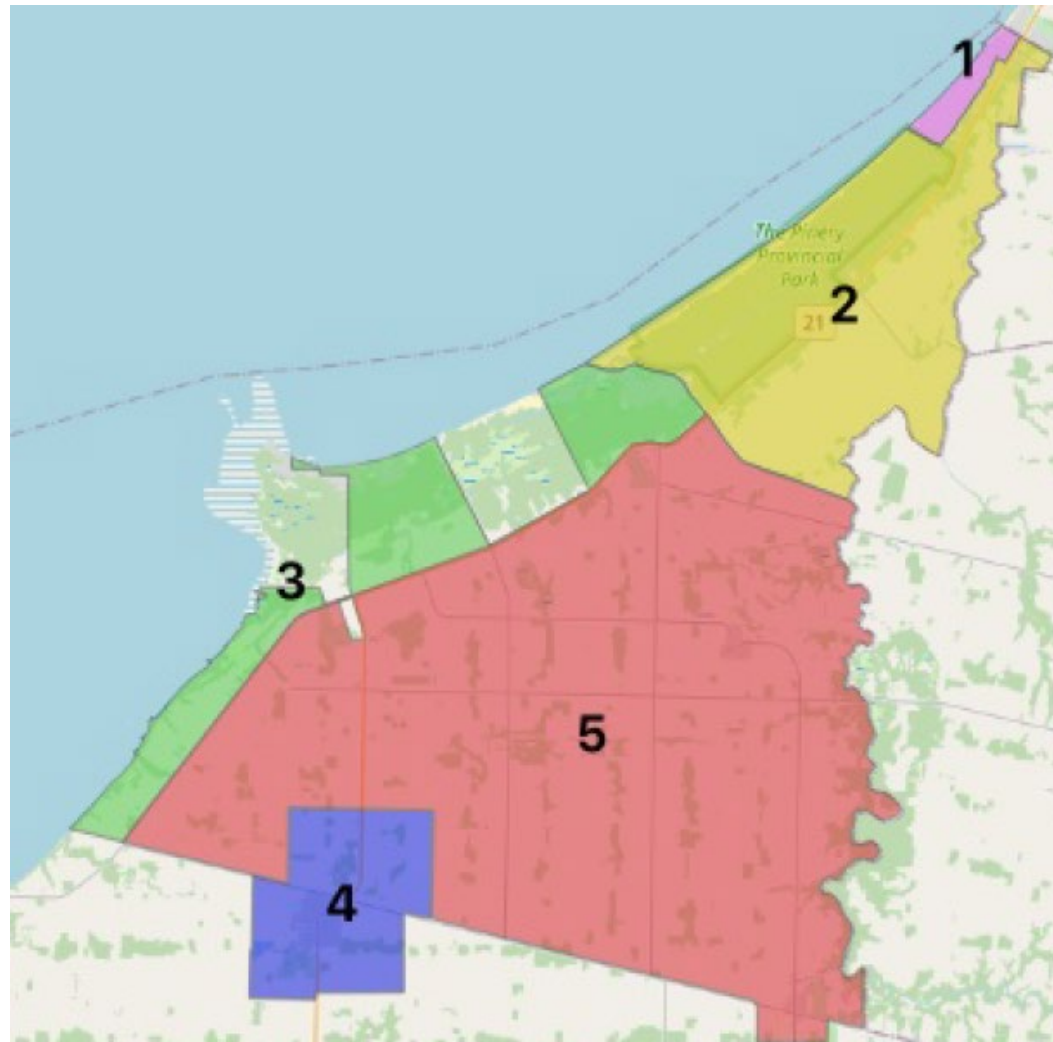| Ward No.	Population	Percentage above or below
1	2187	-3.6%
2	2484	9.5%
3	2013	-11.3%
4	2315	2.0%
5	1854	-18.3%
6	2697	18.9%
7	2543	12.1%
TOTAL	16093	

Option 3: More radical changes to 7-ward system

Option 3: Adjusted populations

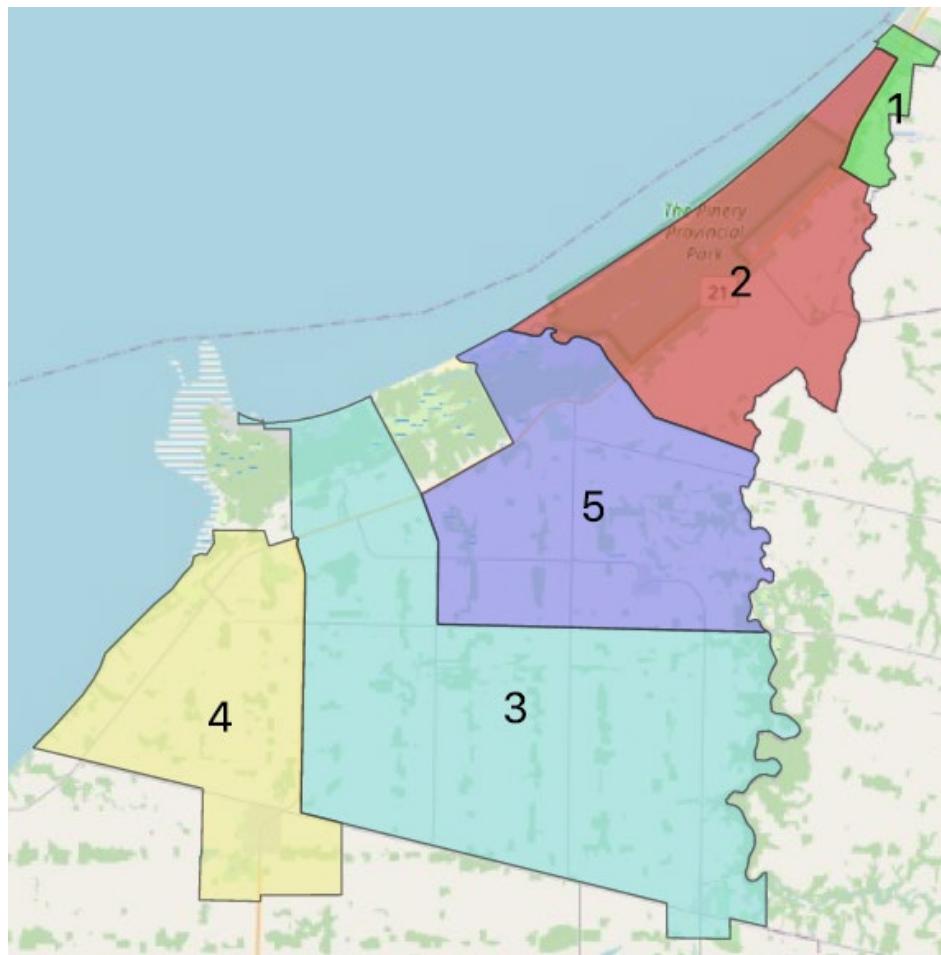| Ward No.	Population	Percentage above or below
1	2187	-4.9%
2	2484	8.0%
3	2134	-7.2%
4	2015	-12.4%
5	2236	-2.7%
6	2494	8.5%
7	2543	10.6%
TOTAL	16093	

Option 4: 5 wards

Option 4: Adjusted populations

Ward No.	Population	Percentage above or below
1	3193	-0.6%
2	2700	-13.1%
3	3868	20.2%
4	3126	-1.3%
5	3014	-5.1%
TOTAL	16093	

Option 5: 5 wards fronting on Lake Huron

Option 5: Adjusted populations

Ward No.	Population	Percentage above or below
1	2398	-25.5%
2	3573	11.0%
3	2992	-7.0%
4	3723	15.7%
5	3407	5.9%
TOTAL	16093	

Next steps

- Virtual public meeting Nov. 18, 6:30 pm. Register through project website
- Watch the website or communicate with us by email: asancton@uwo.ca
- Final Report to Council in December 2020