



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Resolution # RC25170	Meeting Order: 8
Moved by: <i>L. K. Gots</i>	Seconded by: <i>M. Hayfield</i>

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has introduced new regulations, effective January 1, 2025, requiring grocery stores with over 4,000 square feet of retail space to accept empty alcohol containers and return deposits as a condition of maintaining their liquor licenses; and

WHEREAS many large retailers have raised concerns about this obligation due to logistical challenges, including costs, space limitations, and insufficient infrastructure to manage high volumes of returned containers and local residents in Wawa are very upset that there will be no location in the community or area accepting empty alcohol containers; and

WHEREAS this change may negatively impact vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals who depend on bottle returns as a modest yet vital source of income and will increase the amount of waste being dumped at the municipal landfill; and

WHEREAS the ongoing privatization and deregulation of Ontario's previously effective bottle return program threaten to undermine decades of progress in sustainable waste management, environmental stewardship, and circular economy practices; and

WHEREAS the lack of a clear, accessible, and equitable alternative for recycling alcohol containers may place additional strain on municipal waste systems and contribute to increased environmental degradation;

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa supports the development of an accessible, province-wide, and publicly accountable alcohol container return system that:

1. Protects low-income earners and vulnerable residents who rely on bottle returns;
2. Closes gaps in the deposit-return cycle to reduce landfill waste and environmental harm;
3. Provides adequate infrastructure, training, and support to retailers participating in the return system;
4. Ensures strong, consistent enforcement and oversight of return program compliance;
5. Safeguards the public interest in recycling and waste diversion amid increasing privatization pressures;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council urges the Government of Ontario to collaborate meaningfully with municipalities, retailers, environmental organizations, and experts to implement a fair, effective, and inclusive solution that ensures the long-term success of Ontario's deposit-return and recycling systems;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and all Ontario municipalities for their support and consideration.

RESOLUTION RESULT		RECORDED VOTE		
☒	CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL	YES	NO
☐	DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield		
☐	TABLED	Cathy Cannon		
☐	RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Pilon		
☐	PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann		
☐	WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opato		

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

- ☐ Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: _____

MAYOR - MELANIE PILON	CLERK - MAURY O'NEILL



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Resolution # RC25121	Meeting Order: 8
Moved by: <i>Cathy Cannon</i>	Seconded by: <i>Joseph Opato</i>

WHEREAS The Beer Store has closed more than 70 of its store locations across the Province since the Ford Government made the decision to end its exclusivity agreement with The Beer Store and allowed other locations like convenience and grocery stores to sell beer, wine and mixed alcoholic drinks; and

WHEREAS many of the retail stores being closed are in small, northern communities such as Chapleau, Atikokan, Powassan and Blind River where The Beer Store is very important to the local community; and

WHEREAS the presence of The Beer Store in Northern Ontario communities and in Wawa, provides good paying jobs, convenient access to beer sales for tourists looking to purchase a variety of Canadian made beer products not carried in other locations and contributes to the local and provincial economy; and

WHEREAS The Beer Store closure in Wawa would lead to job losses in the community and negatively impact the local economy;

NOW THEREFORE Council of the Municipality of Wawa request that the Provincial Government take the steps necessary to preserve the presence of The Beer Store in small, rural and northern communities and that it request that The Beer Store reconsider its decision to close additional Beer Stores in Ontario, especially in small, northern communities.

AND FURTHER that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy the Minister of Finance, Honourable Victor Fedeli the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Bill Rosenberg the M.P.P. Algoma-Manitoulin, FONOM, NOMA, and AMO.

RESOLUTION RESULT	RECORDED VOTE	YES	NO
☒ CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL		
☐ DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield		
☐ TABLED	Cathy Cannon		
☐ RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Pilon		
☐ PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann		
☐ WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opato		

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

☐ Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: _____

MAYOR - MELANIE PILON	CLERK - MAURY O'NEILL
<i>M. Pilon</i>	<i>Maury O'Neill</i>

October 17, 2025

The Beer Store
Corporate Office | 2258 Coleraine Drive
Bolton, ON L7E 3A9

Attention: Roy Benin

Dear Mr. Benin.

The closing of The Beer Store is the final nail in the coffin for those of us in the town of Wawa who are interested in our environment and recycling. I am not a consumer of alcohol, but since 1992, I have picked up the sad, abandoned packaging others have thrown out on the sides of our roads.

As a volunteer, I have cleaned our outdoors of trash by the truckloads and most of it was made up of beer and wine containers. Having a European background and knowing that even pop cans have a deposit of 10 cents on them there, it is with tears in my eyes that I see the loss of a place to turn in recyclables.

I fought the bureaucracy, wrote to companies and ministers about the abuse of our environment and the renewable resources until finally a deposit was established here in Ontario. The program encourages people to turn in their recyclables rather than putting them in the landfill and the pennies add up.

Here in the north, we live in an "untouched" wilderness and try to promote this for tourism, hunting, and fishing. Often, one of the first stops in town is The Beer Store. Why is this now closed when the nearest store is over 200 km away and there is now no place to accept the empties? Our grocery store had beer and wine when that program was first introduced, but has now cut back as they don't want to accept the recyclables. The one convenience store is also not set up for recyclables and doesn't carry the selection of products The Beer Store did.

So, while it is still possible to purchase a limited selection in our town, the loss of the recycling program affects us deeply. Many organizations, such as skating clubs, hockey teams, Boy Scouts/Girl Guides and even retirees profit from the deposit through bottle drives. These assist the community and keep our outdoors clean to benefit the environment as well. Cans and bottles do not disintegrate in the outdoors. To the contrary, broken glass hurts people and wildlife both. Why are we going backwards on this important recycling project? Why are we in the North forgotten.

We will be drowning in beer cans without a recycling program. What is the solution? Please find one as it is you and this government that have made these changes.

Sincerely,



Karin Grundt
Garbologist
P.O. Box 1430
Wawa, ON P0S 1K0