

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
TO ADOPT OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. A-3
BEING A NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM STRATEGY
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MANITOULIN**

TAKE NOTICE that the Township of Billings will hold a Public Meeting for the purposes of receiving public comments regarding the adoption of a Natural Heritage System Strategy (NHSS):

PUBLIC MEETING DATE: Tuesday, June 16th, 2026
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Billings Municipal Office
15 Old Mill Road
Kagawong ON P0P 1J0

The Official Plan for the District of Manitoulin was adopted by the Manitoulin Planning Board by By-law No. 2016-01, in 2016. The District of Manitoulin Official Plan was approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) on October 29th, 2018, subject to several modifications. Modification No. 21. states that:

'Within the three years after the approval of the Official Plan, the Manitoulin Planning Board shall prepare an Area-Wide Natural Heritage System Strategy (NHSS).'

An information session was held at the Mindemoya Community Hall on August 21st, 2019 from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. for a Natural Heritage System Strategy (NHSS). An electronic information session was also held on November 10th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Information has been made available on the Manitoulin Planning Board website, on the individual municipal websites, as well as in the local paper (The Manitoulin Expositor), including public notices, and draft text and draft mapping. A Public Meeting was held at the Manitoulin Planning Board Office in Gore Bay on November 22nd, 2022 for public comments. An Official Plan Amendment, No. A-3, for the NHSS was adopted by the Manitoulin Planning Board on January 23rd, 2023 and was sent to each of the eight member municipalities for a motion of support and adoption of the NHSS. The Township of Billings adopted the NHSS by By-law No. 2023-16 on February 21st, 2023. The OPA was forwarded to the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) for their approval. MMAH provided a red-line version to the original NHSS on November 19th, 2024 which the eight member municipalities considered at their Council meetings. However, the majority of the municipalities did not support the amended version. MMAH advised that each of the eight member municipalities will need to hold a separate individual Public Meeting to adopt the original NHSS (January 2023). Therefore, this notice is being provided by the Township of Billings, as required under the Planning Act, and as instructed by MMAH. If all member municipalities re-adopt OPA, No. A-3, The Manitoulin Planning Board will be holding another Public Meeting at a later date (tentatively August 2026) to consider re-adopting the original NHSS (2023) for the District of Manitoulin, including the Unincorporated Townships of Robinson and Dawson.

*If you wish to provide any comments/concerns/recommendations, or wish to attend this Public Meeting, or be notified of the decision of Council for the Township of Billings on the proposed NHSS, you must make a written request to The Township of Billings or the Manitoulin Planning Board, **before June 15th, 2026** (see below).*

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Township of Billings to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Billings before the proposed Official Plan amendment, No. A-3, is re-adopted the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at this public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Billings before the proposed Official Plan amendment is re-adopted the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding the proposed text and proposed mapping (Schedule F) for the NHSS is available on the websites (below), or by contacting the Township of Billings or the Manitoulin Planning Board, and are available to the public for inspection during regular business hours at the Township of Billings Municipal Office or the Manitoulin Planning Board Office, Monday to Thursday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

DATED at the Town of Gore Bay
this 26th Day of May, 2026.

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