



# Township of Scugog Staff Report

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**Report Number:** CAO-2025-005

**Prepared by:** Warren Mar, Chief Administrative Officer

**Department:** Administration

**Report To:** Council

**Date:** May 26, 2025

**Reference:** Strategic Direction 5: Complete Community: Strengthen our communities to be inclusive, healthy, safe, connected and engaged.

**SD5 Objective 4: Expand community and governmental partnerships**

**Report Title:** Hydro One Community Grant Opportunity – Durham Kawartha Power Line Project

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## Recommendations:

1. **THAT** Report CAO-2025-005, Hydro One Community Grant Opportunity – Durham Kawartha Power Line Project, be received;
  2. **THAT** staff submit a grant request to Hydro One as part of the Durham Kawartha Power Line Project to support the playground replacement at Cartwright Fields, as outlined in Report CAO-2025-005;
  3. **THAT** the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute any necessary funding agreements with Hydro One to support the receipt of grant funding; and
  4. **THAT** staff work with user groups at the Carolyn Best Memorial Fields to prepare a separate grant submission to Hydro One regarding the installation of LED lighting at Diamond #3.
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## 1. Background:

Hydro One is currently in the planning phase for a new double circuit 230 kilovolt transmission line between the Clarington Transformer Station near Townline Road North and Hwy. 407, and the Dobbin Transformer Station outside of Peterborough in the Township of Selwyn. Construction is expected to commence in 2027 and be completed by 2029.

Mainly following an existing hydro corridor, the proposed location for the transmission line in Scugog is across the southeast corner of the municipality, near Mountjoy Road and the Durham East Cross Forest Conservation Area owned by the Kawartha Region Conservation Authority. Hydro One has already held two community open houses for the project. Further information about the project can be found at: <https://www.hydroone.com/about/corporate-information/major-projects/durham-kawartha>.

The Township was recently approached by representatives from Hydro One regarding a grant funding opportunity. As part of its effort to support local community initiatives in municipalities along the hydro corridor, Hydro One is looking to invest between \$75,000 and \$100,000 in grant funding for local community projects that are ideally close to the affected area (i.e., in Ward 4), but are willing to consider other project locations in the municipality that would benefit the entire community. Examples of potential projects mentioned by Hydro One were parkettes and playgrounds.

No formal application is required to support the request for grant funding. The deadline to request funding is mid-June 2025. For any submitted project, Hydro One requires a letter outlining:

- the nature of the project;
- how it supports the local area or entire community;
- the estimated project cost;
- the expected date of completion; and
- any further information that would explain the project and its importance to the local area or community.

Hydro One is looking for projects that can be completed in either 2025 or 2026. Once a project is approved for grant funding, Hydro One expects municipalities to execute a Community Support Agreement to confirm the funding and set out the municipal obligations to complete the project to remain eligible for the grant.

## **2. Discussion:**

### **Durham Kawartha Power Line Grant Funding**

Staff have reviewed the existing capital project listing from the approved 2025 Capital Budget and identified Capital Project CPK001: Playground Replacement – Cartwright Fields as the recommended project for grant funding.

The location of the playground is in Ward 4 and is relatively close to the affected Hydro One area, compared to other locations in the Township (the existing hydro corridor is not located near any built-up areas of the Township). As noted in the capital project sheet, the “new playground apparatus will replace the existing playground equipment installed in 2004 in Cartwright Fields located on Highway 7A in Nestleton. The existing playground equipment has evidence of delamination of plastic from the steel and corrosion. The replacement playground apparatus will be for ages 2-12 years old and consist of multiple slides and climbers.”

The estimated capital cost for this project is \$150,000.

While the Cartwright playground is scheduled for 2027 replacement, staff will be able to advance this project to 2026 with the assistance of grant funding, which would cover two-thirds of the estimated cost should \$100,000 be provided by Hydro One.

Compared to other projects in Ward 4 where the hydro expansion will be located, the playground is a more “visible” project that supports park users and kids in the area. Cartwright Fields are a popular recreation area, serving the local community primarily and Scugog residents generally. Staff believe this project would likely be seen by Hydro One as an ideal project based on the information provided. It also allows for any signage supporting the initiative to be placed along Hwy. 7A, which would allow high visibility advertising for Hydro One compared to projects elsewhere in Ward 4.

Prior to proceeding with the project, staff will review the playground condition assessment to determine the remaining lifespan of the existing equipment on site. Depending on the condition of the equipment, it may be repurposed or sold. Community consultations will also occur to obtain ideas and comments on any new equipment proposed for the site that can be accommodated within the estimated budget.

Alternatives to the recommended project include:

- PHD024: Cartwright Fields Parking Lot Upgrades, which is the same estimated cost (\$150,000) and is scheduled to take place in 2026. However, this project does not fit as well within the examples of ideal projects from Hydro One.

- A further partnership with Cartwright Sports and Recreation Inc., who are looking to install a covered shelter at the Cartwright Fields lower diamond. This has been a top priority for them for several years. The last quote they received for this work was \$85,000.

### **Other Grant Possibilities with Hydro One**

Separate from this grant funding opportunity, staff also recommend reaching out to user groups who use the Carolyn Best Memorial Fields to determine if they would support the Township in a second grant request to Hydro One for new energy efficient LED lighting on Diamond #3. This could help offset some or all of the \$280,000 estimated cost for the capital project (scheduled for 2027), which is only scheduled to proceed if grant funding can be obtained. Adding lights to this ball diamond will allow for night use for an additional 250 available diamond rentals, helping to mitigate the loss of an illuminated field at Joe Fowler Memorial Park.

While there is no guarantee that Hydro One would accept or consider this unsolicited grant request, staff are aware of the need to provide an illuminated ball diamond to support users, outside of the waterfront area.

### **3. Financial Implications:**

As noted above.

### **4. Communication Considerations:**

As part of the work to complete the replacement of the Cartwright Fields playground, community consultation will take place to determine what equipment should be located at the site, within the available budget. Grant funding from Hydro One will likely require a public announcement and site signage, which will be coordinated with Hydro One.

### **5. Conclusion:**

Given the recent offer from Hydro One and short timeframe to submit potential projects, staff recommend proceeding with a submission to Hydro One for grant funding to support the replacement of the playground at Cartwright Fields.

Separately, staff also recommend approaching Hydro One, together with ball diamond user groups, to determine if Hydro One would provide grant funding for new energy efficient LED lighting on Diamond #3 at the Carolyn Best Memorial Fields.

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Respectfully Submitted by:

Warren Mar  
Chief Administrative Officer

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**Attachments:**

None.