

Youth Advisory Committee accomplishments in the 2022-2026 term:

Looking across the inaugural term, the Committee's work can be summarized into **seven areas**:

1. Civic education

Youth learned about:

- municipal structure;
- Council procedures;
- by-law enforcement;
- property standards;
- fire services;
- local government;
- public decision-making;
- municipal elections;
- community safety.

And heard presentations from:

- County of Wellington Solid Waste Services
- Crime Stoppers
- Wellington OPP Youth Advisory Committee
- Grove Wellness Youth Hub

2. Youth leadership development

The Committee developed:

- public speaking;
- presentations;
- teamwork;
- planning and research;
- project management;
- committee procedure;
- leadership;

3. Community volunteering

Youth participated in or supported:

- Bike Rodeo;
- Canada Day;
- Aberfoyle Fall Fair;
- Puslinch Community Showcase;

- 175th Anniversary celebrations;
- Local Government Week;
- other community volunteer opportunities.

4. Recreation

The Committee advocated for:

- Arkell soccer-field lighting;
- free roller skating;
- youth tennis;
- Bike Rodeo;
- youth programming at the Fall Fair;
- access to community recreation;
- recreation surveys and programming.

5. Environment and community stewardship

Youth participated in:

- Mill Creek stewardship discussions; Mill Creek Rangers
- Boreham Park;
- Green Legacy; tree planting;
- environmental/community stewardship.

The Boreham Park initiative ultimately resulted in **more than 100 trees being planted**.

6. Youth voice in municipal decision-making

The Committee didn't simply receive presentations, it brought forward issues and recommendations concerning:

- recreation;
- parks;
- transportation;
- youth programming;
- community safety;
- municipal communications;
- local government;
- community events;
- facilities and accessibility.

That is consistent with the Township's stated purpose for the Committee: creating a meaningful communication link between Puslinch youth and Council.

7. Strengthening Community Partnerships:

- Mill Creek Stewards
- Optimist Club of Puslinch
- Aberfoyle Public School
- Green Legacy
- Recreation & Wellness Committee
- Safe Communities
- Agricultural Society

This is a pretty compelling show of youth moving from being consulted to actually participating in and contributing to municipal government and the broader Puslinch community.

The evolution:

2023 — Building the foundation

Youth learned how municipal government works, learned procedure, met Township staff, developed projects and established their identity.

2024 — Getting involved

Youth moved into community events, recreation, environmental stewardship, Local Government Week and youth-to-youth civic education.

2025 — Leading and contributing

Youth became an active volunteer presence at major Township events, planted 100+ trees at Boreham Park, developed recreational initiatives and strengthened their presentation/leadership skills.

2026 — Shaping the community

Youth are now discussing rural transportation, municipal leadership, community safety, recreation and local government while continuing to deliver community events.