



The Corporation of the County of Northumberland

Social Services Committee

Minutes

March 6, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Council Chambers

555 Courthouse Road, Cobourg, ON K9A 5J6

Hybrid Meeting (In Person and Virtual)

Members Present: Chair John Logel
Warden Brian Ostrander
Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

Council Members

Present (Non-Voting): Councillor Mandy Martin

1. Notices

1.a Accessible Format

If you require this information in an alternate format, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator at accessibility@northumberland.ca or 1-800-354-7050 ext. 2327.

1.b Meeting Format

This Committee Meeting was held using a hybrid meeting model. The public were invited to attend in-person in Council Chambers, view the meeting via the live stream, or join online or by phone using Zoom Conference Technology.

2. Call to Order

Chair John Logel called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2.a Territorial Land Acknowledgement

3. Approval of the Agenda

Committee Resolution 2024-03-06-157

Moved By Warden Brian Ostrander

Seconded By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

"**That** the agenda for the March 6, 2024 Social Services Committee be approved."

Carried

4. Disclosures of Interest

- No disclosures

5. Delegations

5.a Delegation, James Bisson '310 Division Street, Cobourg'

Committee Resolution 2024-03-06-158

Moved By Warden Brian Ostrander

Seconded By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

"**That** the Social Services Committee receive the delegation from James Bisson regarding '310 Division Street, Cobourg' for information; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council receive the PowerPoint presentation for information."

Carried

6. Business Arising from Last Meeting

N/A

7. Communications

7.a Correspondence, County of Prince Edward 'Review of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates'

Committee Resolution 2024-03-06-159

Moved By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

Seconded By Warden Brian Ostrander

"**That** the Social Services Committee, having considered the correspondence from the County of Prince Edward regarding 'Review of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates', recommend that County Council support this correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), the Honourable Michael Parsa (Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services), the Honorable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), the Honourable Sylvia Jones (Minister of Health), the Honorable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, and all Ontario municipalities."

Carried

7.b Correspondence, '310 Division Street, Cobourg'

Committee Resolution 2024-03-06-160

Moved By Warden Brian Ostrander

Seconded By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

"**That** the Social Services Committee receive the correspondence regarding '310 Division Street, Cobourg' from the following individuals / organizations for information;

- Jennifer Atkinson;
- Tara Cunningham;
- Lisa Cybulski;
- Kelly Kirkham;
- Cathy Krentz;
- Stephen Parker;
- Rebound Child and Youth Services Northumberland;
- Warren Smith;
- Suzanne Thorne; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council receive the correspondence for information."

Carried

8. Staff Reports

8.a Report 2024-038 '2024 Ontario Works Service Plan' - Presentation

Jennifer Glover, Ontario Works Manager

Committee Resolution 2024-03-06-161

Moved By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

Seconded By Warden Brian Ostrander

"**That** the Social Services Committee receive Report 2024-038 'Ontario Works Service Plan' for information; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council receive this report for information; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council direct staff to engage in Provincial advocacy and with the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus regarding Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program financial assistance rates and the need for increased Service Manager funding; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council direct staff to report back to Committee/Council at a future meeting date with an advocacy plan; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council declare this issue an urgent and top priority."

Carried

9. Other Matters Considered by Committee

9.a Northumberland County Housing Corporation - Meeting Minutes

Committee Resolution 2024-03-06-162

Moved By Warden Brian Ostrander

Seconded By Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

"**That** the Social Services Committee receive the January 31, 2024 meeting minutes of the Northumberland County Housing Corporation for information; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council receive the minutes for information."

Carried

10. Media Questions

11. Closed Session

N/A

12. Motion to Rise and Result from Closed Session

N/A

13. Next Meeting - Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

14. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

Delegation on 310 Division

James Bisson

Public Statements – County Warden Dec 6, 2023

- Transaction to purchase 310 Division was to proceed
- Decision to have 310 as an emergency shelter “not set in stone”.
- Committed to public consultations for the residents of Cobourg regarding 310 including alternatives to emergency shelter.
- Confirmed publicly that she “represented the interests of all residents of Northumberland” despite not being accountable electorally.
- Entire consultation and public information confirms the County’s intention to have TH exclusively own and operate the facility as an emergency LBS.

Emergency Shelter Review – May 15, 2023

- 44 recommendations to improve delivery of services.
- County is top tier in capacity compared to 5 similar regions regarding emergency beds with at the time of report conclusion (27 beds).
- Lack of commitment to Housing First approach leading cause of increased in need for more emergency shelter beds.
- Gaps included lack of data reporting, accountability for outcomes, communication among 26 homeless support providers, negative public perception, long stays by users reducing capacity, and coordination of services with emphasis on outreach and diversion from emergency shelter system.
- Recommended 40 beds be accessible within 3 years to address chronic overuse of emergency shelters.
- No mention of recommendations or Housing First in 310 process.

- County provides \$1.378 Mil in annual funding
- 80% of TH funding from County and increasing
- \$68k in direct fundraising by TH
- County essentially funding vendor buy back
- TH is running less than capacity

TRANSITION HOUSE COALITION OF NORTHUMBERLAND

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023**

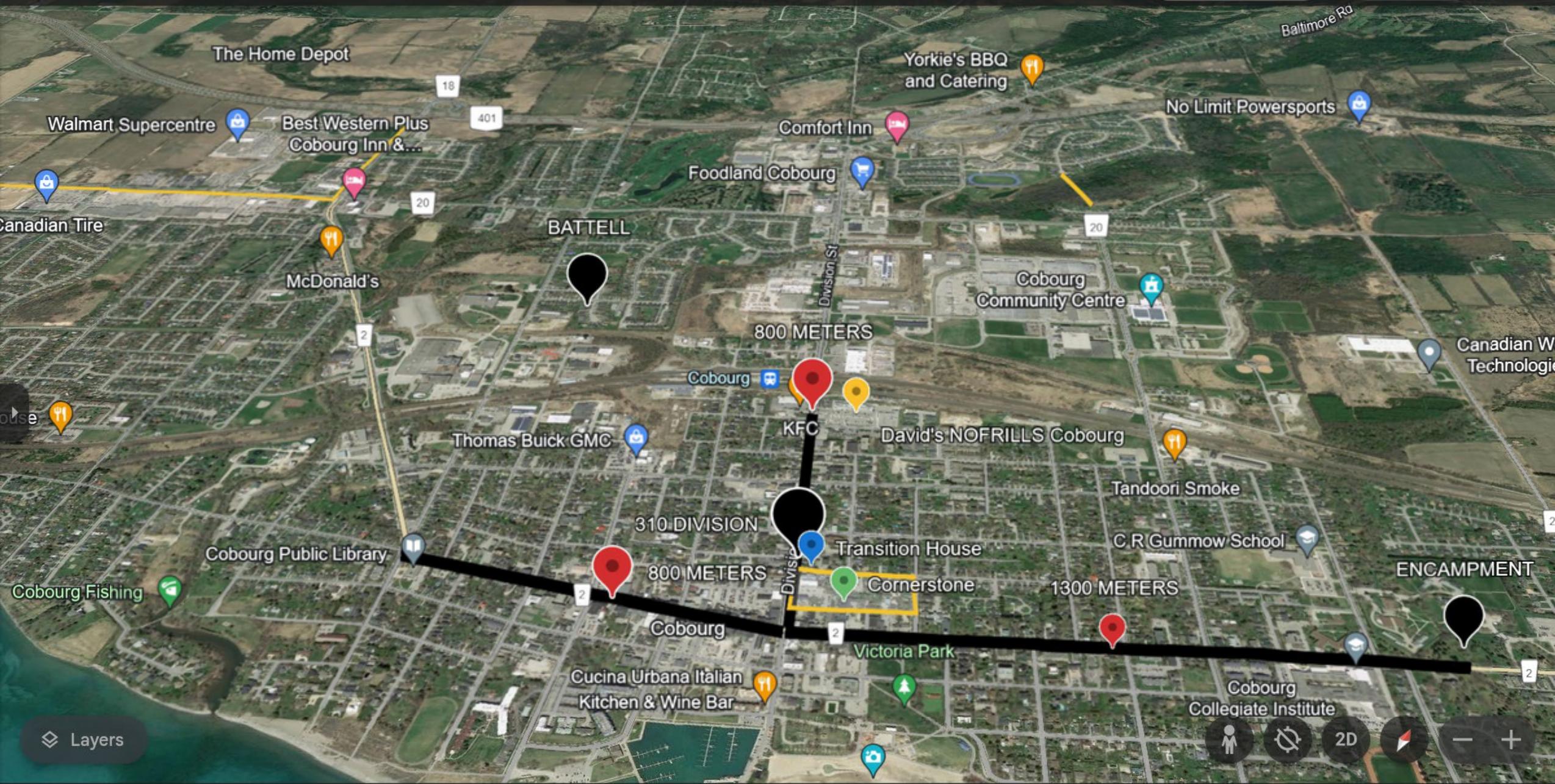
	2023	2022
REVENUE		
Donations	\$ 68,770	\$ 40,392
County funding - emergency shelter	494,000	490,000
County funding - other programs	884,547	609,249
Ontario Trillium Foundation grant	12,669	-
United Way Simcoe Muskoka grant	217,000	-
Other grants	24,585	110,881
United Way Northumberland grant	45,000	54,535
Government assistance (Note 11)	-	207,233
Interest and other income	1,287	343
	<u>1,747,838</u>	<u>1,512,633</u>
EXPENSES		
Amortization	11,014	11,852
Administration expenses	28,711	73,214
Insurance	17,526	11,369
Interest on term loan	4,217	4,704
Fundraising	6,334	1,255
Accounting and bookkeeping	20,320	19,856
Unforeseen expenses	-	94,437
Repair and maintenance	23,417	20,621
Residents expenses	562,376	140,048
Training	8,576	64,959
Utilities	14,104	10,976
Wages and benefits	791,274	855,329
Ontario Trillium grant expenses	12,669	-
Audit fees	7,276	6,756
Consulting and other fees	38,267	12,694
	<u>1,546,081</u>	<u>1,328,070</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ 201,757</u>	<u>\$ 184,563</u>

Emergency Sheltering

- Purchase \$2.3mil
- TH Owned with VBB Loan
- 47 Beds for emergency LBS
- -12 Beds For Services
- 35 Emergency Beds (90 days)
- Sale of Transition House
- Total Capacity 35
- Reduction of 2 beds

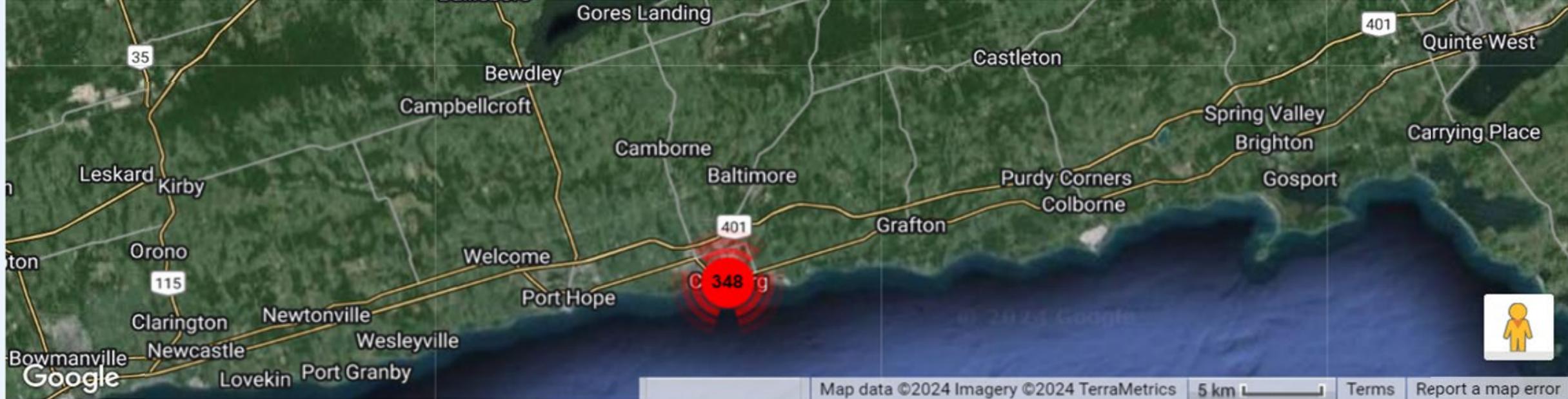
Housing First

- Purchase \$2.3mil
- Owned by County/NCHC
- 47 Beds for Housing First
- Services housed at old COSIC
- 47 Housing First beds
- Reorganize Transition House
- Total Capacity 84
- Increase of 47 beds



Impact of County Policies on Cobourg

- County's regional emergency sheltering strategy in a 2 block area of downtown Cobourg.
- Concentration of violent, property, and non-violent infractions in small geographic area.
- Increased costs and allocation of law enforcement, emergency services, and by-law to town.
- Safety and security concerns for residents due to daily incidences.
- Failure of authorities to evict Encampment on Sept 26, 2023.
- No plan to reduce security issues outside of 310 premises.
- No strategy to address Encampment.



Available Data: Friday, December 1st 2023 to Thursday, February 29th 2024

2023-12-01

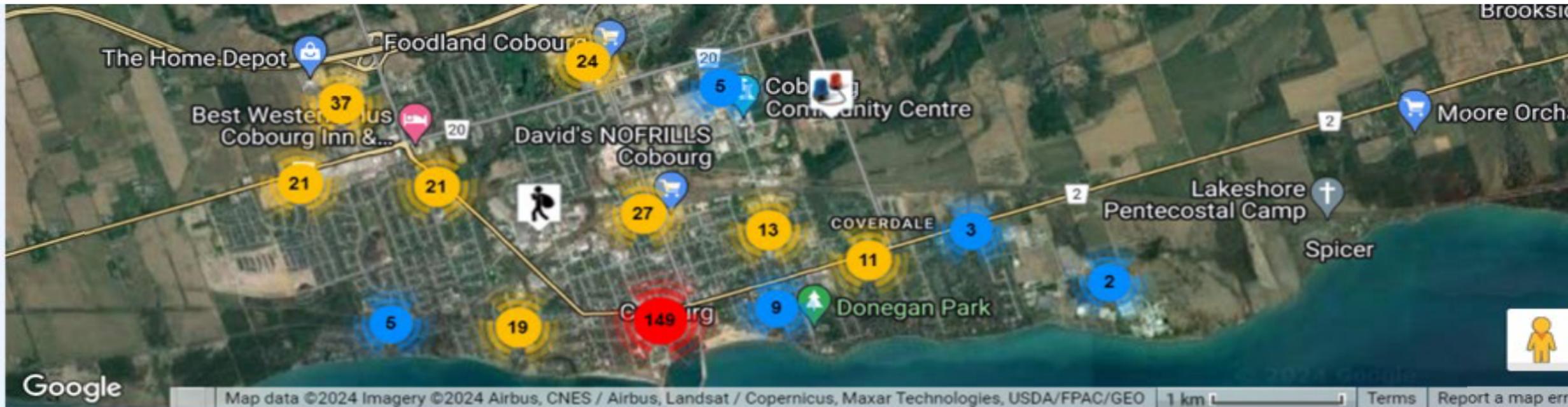
2024-02-29

Markers

- ASSAULT
- B-E BUS/RES/OTH
- DANGEROUS CONDITIONS
- DISTURB THE PEACE
- DRUG OFFENCES
- FIRE
- HARASSMENT
- INDECENT ACTS
- MISCHIEF
- PROPERTY DAMAGE
- SHOPLIFT
- THEFT
- TRESPASS BY NIGHT
- UNWANTED PERSON
- WEAPONS

Reported Incidence Breakdown – Dec 1, 2023 – Feb 29, 2024

- 348 Total Reported Incidences in 90 days
- 36 Assaults, Weapons, or Dangerous Condition
- 26 Drug offences, property damage, fire
- 78 Thefts and Break and Enter
- 19 Shoplifting
- 189 Unwanted person, indecent acts, mischief, harassment, or disturbing the peace
- 63% of total incidences occurred in a 2km by 1km area.
- Urgent safety and security for residents due to daily incidences.
- No plan to address security issues outside of 310 premises.
- No plan to address Encampment.



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2023-12-01

2024-02-29

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× ASSAULT

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× UNWANTED PERSON

× WEAPONS

Public Confidence in the County Broken

- Failure to incorporate Emergency Shelter Review in process.
- Failure to act on eviction of Encampment dated September 26, 2023.
- Failure to fulfill commitments by County Council regarding 310.
- Failure to provide alternatives to emergency low barrier shelter.
- Failure to address public security concerns of residents.
- Failure to address public conflict of interest perceptions.
- Failure to work collaboratively with the Town of Cobourg.
- Failure to uphold the public trust.

Notice of Public Actions To Address Failures

- Demand delegation findings be brought to full County Council to provide official public response by next Council Meeting.
- Complaint to the Integrity Ombudsman regarding Council Code of Conduct
- Complaint to the Municipal Ombudsman regarding process related to emergency sheltering and the purchase of 310 Division
- Access to Information Request requiring all documents, meetings, and notes regarding the lead up and outcome of the September 26, 2023 eviction notice at Brookside.
- Access to Information Request for all documents and actions related to the Emergency Shelter Review.
- Access to Information Request regarding the hiring process for the Housing Manager position.
- Access to Information Request regarding all funding received from the Provincial government regarding homelessness, its allocations, and outcomes.

As per the request by James Bisson, the link to the Homelessness Support System Review by VINK Consulting is available below and attached to his delegation presentation regarding 310 Division Street, Cobourg:

- **Vink Consulting 'Homelessness Support System Review'**

<https://pub-northumberland.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=7721>