

## **Transit service to Orillia Square Mall extended to April 2020**

**For immediate release (March 6, 2019)** – Those looking to ride the bus to and from the Orillia Square Mall can continue to do so until at least April 2020.

At its meeting on March 4, Council approved the continuation of Orillia Transit service to the mall located outside of City limits for another year following the Township of Severn committing one-year funding to the operating costs of the service. The total cost of running transit service to the mall is \$47,500, which was historically paid by the mall annually, and will now be divided between the mall (\$15,000), the Township of Severn (\$15,000) and the City of Orillia (\$17,500).

“A partnership between the City, Severn and the mall to fund this service demonstrates good partnerships at work and I commend our neighbours for their contribution,” said Mayor Steve Clarke. “Orillia Council is pleased transit service to the mall will continue to run. I believe Orillia taxpayers should not be on the hook to pay completely for a service that goes outside of the City. We will continue to negotiate for long term stability of the service.”

Council authorized staff to continue working with the mall’s management company, Bentall Kennedy (Canada) Limited, and the Township of Severn to re-negotiate the transit services agreement to the Orillia Square mall beyond April 2020. The results of those negotiations will be considered during the 2020 budget.

In 2017, the new ownership group of the Orillia Square Mall (Canadian Tire Real Estate Investment Trust REIT represented by Bentall Kennedy) offered a reduced contribution to renew the transit service agreement to the mall. At that time, Council extended the service to April 30, 2019 for the reduced contribution with the condition that if a full value agreement could not be met by Dec. 1, 2018, transit service would be discontinued to the mall.

The City of Orillia is a city of 31,000 people in the heart of Ontario’s Lake Country on the shores of Lake Couchiching and Lake Simcoe. Visit our website at [orillia.ca](http://orillia.ca).

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