



**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF GEORGINA**
Georgina Economic Development Advisory Committee Agenda

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

“The Town of Georgina recognizes and acknowledges that we are on lands originally used and occupied by the First Peoples of the Williams Treaties First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples, and on behalf of the Mayor and Council, we would like to thank them for sharing this land. We would also like to acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our close neighbour and friend, one with which we strive to build a cooperative and respectful relationship.

We also recognize the unique relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory. They are the water protectors and environmental stewards of these lands and we join them in these responsibilities.”

2. ROLL CALL

3. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. INTRODUCTION OF ADDENDUM ITEM(S)

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

8. DELEGATIONS/ SPEAKERS

1. 2025 Tourism Sector Opportunities -- Chuck Thibeault, Executive Director, Central Counties Tourism

9. PRESENTATIONS

10. REPORTS

1. Economic Development Updates

2. Verbal Update - Chamber of Commerce
3. Verbal Update - South Lake Community Futures

11. DISPOSITIONS/ PROCLAMATIONS, GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

1. General Information Items
 - a. Notice of Study Commencement (Municipal Class Environmental Assessment) -- High Street and Woodriver Bend Pumping Stations and Water Resource Recovery Facility
2. Disposition Items

12. MOTIONS/ NOTICES OF MOTION

13. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Tariffs Update

14. CLOSED SESSION

15. MOTION TO ADJOURN



**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF GEORGINA**

GEORGINA Georgina Economic Development Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: Monday, February 10, 2025
Time: 7:00 PM

Members Present: Margaret Quirk, Mayor
Dan Fellini, Councillor, Ward 2
Dave Neeson, Councillor, Ward 3
Charles Calzavara
Anna Buchner
Bob Law
Amanda Mallory
Christine Burton

Members Absent: Jason Solilo
Stephanie Robinson

Staff Present: Karyn Stone, Manager of Economic Development and Tourism
Wendy Cuthbert, Administrative Coordinator, Strategic Initiatives

1. CALL TO ORDER

"The Town of Georgina recognizes and acknowledges that we are on lands originally used and occupied by the First Peoples of the Williams Treaties First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples, and on behalf of the Mayor and Council, we would like to thank them for sharing this land. We would also like to acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our close neighbour and friend, one with which we strive to build a cooperative and respectful relationship.

We also recognize the unique relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory. They are the water protectors and environmental stewards of these lands and we join them in these responsibilities."

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

As noted above

1. Election of Chair

Councillor Dan Fellini has advised that he will be stepping down as Chair for the balance of the term but will remain an active committee member for the remainder of the 2022-2026 term.

Nomination procedure was followed, with three nomination calls. Councillor Dave Neeson was the only member nominated and accepted the nomination.

GEDC2025-001

Moved By Margaret Quirk

Seconded By Dan Fellini

That Councillor Dave Neeson is appointed Chair for the remainder of the 2022-2026 term.

Carried

3. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Fellini clarified that he was stepping down because he plans to spend more time with his granddaughter.

4. INTRODUCTION OF ADDENDUM ITEM(S)

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

GEDC2025-002

Moved By Amanda Mallory

Seconded By Charles Calzavara

That the February 10, 2025, Agenda is approved as presented.

Carried

6. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None

7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

GEDC2025-0003

Moved By Anna Buchner

Seconded By Bob Law

That the November 12, 2024, Minutes be approved as presented.

Carried

8. DELEGATIONS/ SPEAKERS

9. PRESENTATIONS

10. REPORTS

1. Economic Development Updates

Karyn provided her division's update through a PowerPoint presentation, *Economic Development and Tourism Highlights -- February 2025*.

She pointed out that the division has garnered over \$103,000 in grants to support its economic initiatives and is well on its way to hitting all the defined goalposts in each of the four pillars of its strategy.

Of note:

- More than 300 acres (of the 500 in total) of employment lands are progressing through the development process.
- Over 70 businesses in Georgina have had formal business visitations
- Propelled by the interest in the Vendors at the Beach pilot program in 2024, the division has launched an EOI for this program for 2025
- After two lackluster ice fishing seasons, this season is ripe for a resurgence in this sector and, to support the sport, the division is hosting an ice fishing on Wednesday February 19th to promote the winter activity to media and influencers.
- The division's Economic Development Officer has, with the help of OBIA, helped create a specific CRM system for the Sutton BIA to promote internal communications and data-sharing for their business community.
- Prompted by the near-constant threat of a trade war (and annexation) by the U.S. president, Karyn shared with the group that Council unanimously passed a Motion at the February 5, 2025 Council Meeting to promote a Buy Canadian -- Shop Local response from the Town. Because the tariff situation is a moving target, Council is awaiting staff recommendations but, from the

economic development point of view, the plan is to enhance existing Shop Local initiatives in Georgina in partnership with the Chamber.

2. Verbal Update - Chamber of Commerce

Christine Burton provided Chamber of Commerce updates, including:

- Announcing the 2025 Discover Georgina show, which will be held at the Ice Palace the weekend of May 3-4. The Chamber is working on finalizing the entertainment for the event but notes that 67 exhibitors have already registered.
- The Chamber has been involved in local, provincial and federal discussions with its contemporaries around the U.S. tariff threats and is planning to ramp up its efforts to encourage local employment and resources to help local businesses.
- The Chamber's AGM is February 25, 2025 and will feature speaker Daniel Tisch, president and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.
- The Chamber is continuing its activities to support sport tourism and believes strongly that targeting those that visit Georgina for sport events/tournaments will have a great impact on the community.

3. Verbal Update - South Lake Community Futures

No update. Karyn announced that the representative from South Lake Community Futures was unable to attend this month's meeting.

GEDC2025-0004

Moved By Amanda Mallory

Seconded By Margaret Quirk

That items 1 (Economic Development Updates) and 2 (Verbal Update -- Chamber of Commerce) be received as presented.

Carried

11. DISPOSITIONS/ PROCLAMATIONS, GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

1. General Information Items

- Pre-meeting survey -- results and discussion
- Hosting of Economic Development Council of Ontario (EDCO) event May 29th

Wendy Cuthbert shared some of the results from the brief survey sent out to unearth how committee members would like to see GEDC meetings evolve in 2025. Of note:

- All respondents were interested in off-site "field trips" to occur outside of official meetings. Example provided was visiting digital innovation hub NewMakelt in Newmarket.
- One respondent recommended expanding the role of the committee, from simply sharing and relaying economic development activities to suggesting improvements and policy ideas.
- Several committee member respondents offered suggestions for guest presentations, including Central Counties Tourism, CNIB, large-project developers and consultants/resources for small- and medium-sized businesses.
- When it came to ranking the four pillars for coverage this year, all respondents ranked business expansion and retention, along with investment attraction, as the top priorities to explore. Most also mentioned the need to continue focusing on creating lively downtowns.
- One member suggested that the team send out roundtable questions with the agenda package to provide time to reflect prior to the meeting.

Karyn announced that Cristina Liu, current economic development officer (who manages the tourism portfolio), will be leaving the Town to work at another municipality.

Last year, Cristina had applied on behalf of the division to host a one-day conference held by the Economic Development Council of Ontario (EDCO.) Wendy will be assisting the Division with the EDCO event, planned for May 29th.

The panels planned for this event will revolve around rural community investment readiness, engaging community stakeholders and agri-tourism

GEDC2025-0005

Moved By Dan Fellini

Seconded By Christine Burton

That the two General Information items be received as presented.

Carried

2. Disposition Items

12. MOTIONS/ NOTICES OF MOTION

13. OTHER BUSINESS

GEDC members discussed the roundtable questions:

1. What has the threat of tariffs meant for your business?
2. What are you hearing locally about the support for local and Canadian businesses? Has there been a noticeable increase in national pride?
3. Share thoughts re: committee resolution to support Buy Canadian -- Shop Local motion and marketing initiatives?

Group discussed challenges to economy wrought by pending steel and aluminum tariffs, along with threats of more tariffs.

Concerns over how Buy Canadian -- Shop Local mandate might be misinterpreted as Canadians might indeed seek out Canada-produced goods. But what about local businesses that are US-based (franchises?) or those that sell US goods? Our local economy -- jobs and stability -- relies on the success of these businesses, as well. Group discussed how support needs to be extended from local entities outwards and communications must avoid the slippery slope of over-simplification (i.e.: "Don't buy American.")

As first step, committee members decided to support the February 5, 2025, Council motion around the Buy Canadian -- Shop Local position and commitment to work to support the interests of local businesses that employ and support Georgina residents.

GEDC2025-0006

Moved By Amanda Mallory

Seconded By Charles Calzavara

That the Georgina Economic Development Advisory Committee supports and endorses the February 5, 2025, Council Motion respecting concerns around pending tariffs, and vows to continue its work to elevate local businesses and enterprises -- with a focus on protecting local jobs and the local economy.

Carried

14. CLOSED SESSION

15. MOTION TO ADJOURN

GEDC2025-0007

Moved By Christine Burton

Seconded By Anna Buchner

That the meeting adjourn at 8:26 pm.

Carried

Councillor Dave Neeson, Chair

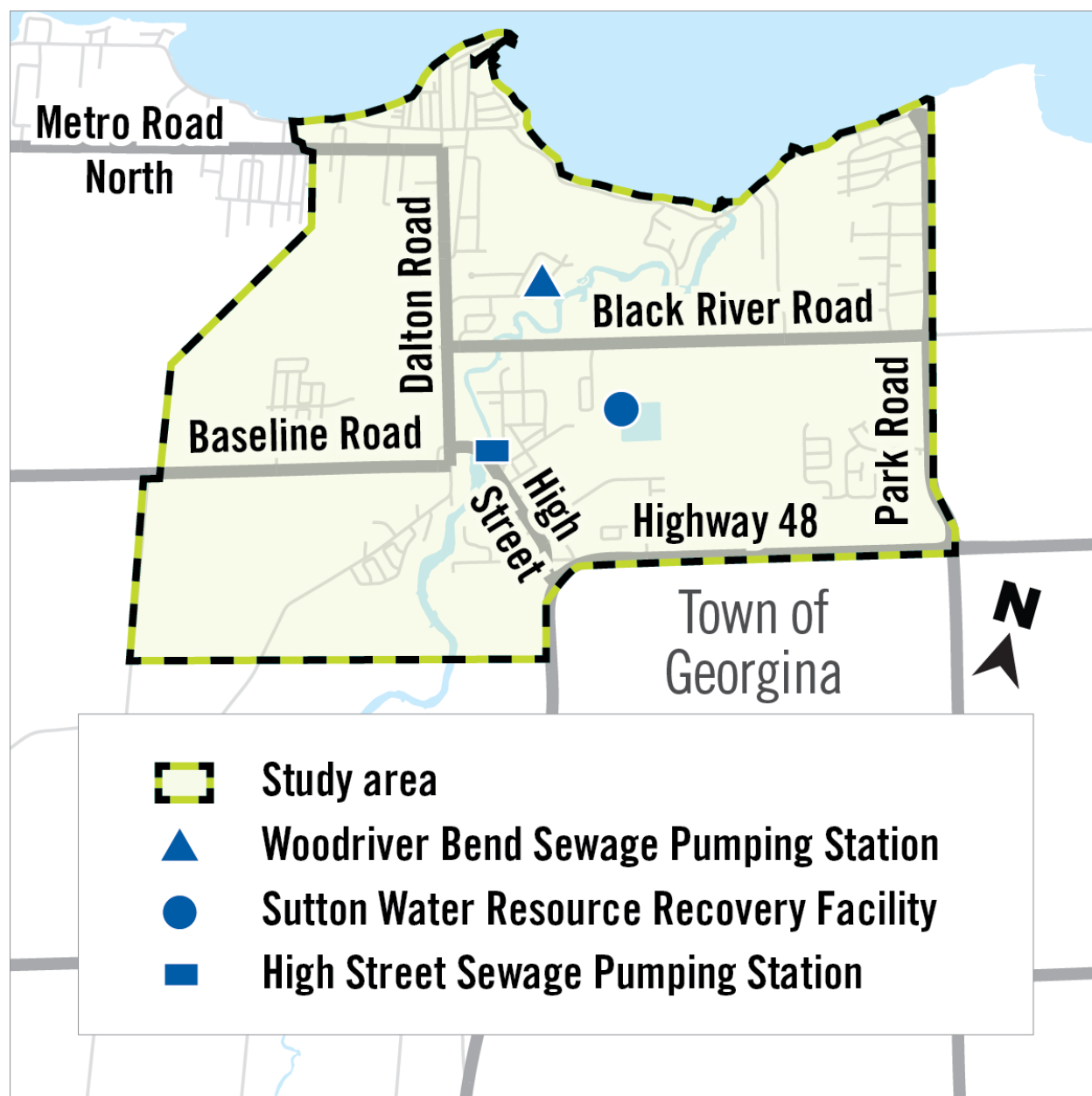
Notice of Study Commencement - High Street and Woodriver Bend Sewage Pumping Stations

March 04, 2025

In the Town of Georgina

Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study

The Regional Municipality of York is conducting a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) Study - Schedule B process to explore wastewater systems and servicing needs for the community of Sutton, in the Town of Georgina. The study will focus on the High Street and Woodriver Bend Sewage Pumping Stations and the Sutton Water Resource Recovery Facility.



The study will consider facility upgrades, evaluate new locations or expansions to ensure reliable wastewater servicing for residents and businesses for the next 30 years. Information about the study and public consultation will be posted on york.ca/EA and on York Region's [Facebook](#) and [X](#) channels.

To submit a comment, question or to be added to the project mailing list, visit link below.

[Join mailing list](#)

If you have any questions, please contact:

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