



GEORGINA

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF GEORGINA**

Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2025
Time: 7:00 PM

Members of
Committee Present: Dave Neeson
Lee Dale
Mary-Lynn Seeley
Austin Rooney

Members of
Committee Absent: Mark Setter

Staff Present: Samantha Naumoski, Committee Services Coordinator
Alan Drozd, Manager of Planning Policy
Bob Ferguson, Manager of Parks Development and Operations

Others Present: Don Goodyear, General Manager of Integrated Watershed
Management (LSRCA)
Susan Sheard, Speaker
MJ Hanley, Speaker

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.”

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

As noted above.

3. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

4. INTRODUCTION OF ADDENDUM ITEM(S)

- Item No. 8.2. Speakers Susan Sheard and MJ Hanley regarding Notice of Motion, Salt Management.
- Item No. 12.2. Council Notice of Motion; From Councillor Neeson regarding Salt Management.

Both Addendum Items have been published to the Town's website.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2025-0005

Moved By Lee Dale

Seconded By Mary-Lynn Seeley

That the Committee approve the Agenda with amendments to the order of proceedings; and with the following addendum items:

- Item No. 8.2. Speakers Susan Sheard and MJ Hanley regarding Notice of Motion, Salt Management.
- Item No. 12.2. Council Notice of Motion; From Councillor Neeson regarding Salt Management.

Carried

6. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

Councillor Dave Neeson, Chair, declared a pecuniary interest on Item No. 12.2, Notice of Motion concerning Salt Management, as he is the author of this motion. Councillor Neeson did not act as meeting Chair on this item.

7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of the meeting held on February 25, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2025-0006

Moved By Lee Dale
Seconded By Austin Rooney

That the Minutes of the meeting held on February 25, 2025 be approved as presented.

Carried

8. SPEAKERS

1. Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA)

Don Goodyear, General Manager of Integrated Watershed Management, from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, to speak and present on the Ecological Health of Lake Simcoe.

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2025-0009

Moved By Lee Dale
Seconded By Austin Rooney

That the item regarding the Ecological Health of Lake Simcoe from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) be deferred to the next scheduled Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee meeting.

Carried

2. Speaker Regarding Notice of Motion, Salt Management

Susan Sheard and MJ Hanley provided a presentation on Salt Facts from the Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition in correspondence to the Notice of Motion regarding Salt Management.

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2025-0007

Moved By Austin Rooney
Seconded By Mary-Lynn Seeley

That the presentation regarding the Notice of Motion on Salt Management, be received for information.

Carried

9. DELEGATIONS/ PETITIONS

None.

10. PRESENTATIONS

None.

11. REPORTS

None.

12. GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Willow Beach Design Concept

Information from the Community Services Department on the Willow Beach Design Concept attachment.

Moved By Lee Dale
Seconded By Austin Rooney

That the item regarding the Willow Beach Design Concept be deferred to the next scheduled Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee meeting.

Carried

2. Council Notice of Motion; From Councillor Neeson regarding Salt Management

Councillor Neeson stepped down from the position of Chair and Vice-Chair, Mary-Lynn Seeley, claimed the position of Chair.

Councillor Neeson presented the Notice of Motion regarding Salt Management and provided comments and information on the matter.

WHEREAS road salt is a known toxic substance designated under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act because of tangible threats of serious and irreversible environmental and public health concerns associated with road salt; and

WHEREAS salt levels in Ontario's groundwater aquifers, creeks, rivers, and lakes have increasingly worsened since the 1970s, seriously affecting municipal drinking water sources and aquatic life; and

WHEREAS Lake Simcoe is our closest freshwater lake and is the 4th largest inland lake within Ontario, host to a number of functions including a biodiverse habitat for over 56 species of fish, the source water for municipal drinking water for hundreds of thousands of residents within the watershed, including 41,000 here in the Town of Georgina, and the many other recreational and commercial functions it serves; and

WHEREAS Lake Simcoe's salinity concentrations have increased over 500% since monitoring began over the past 50 years, with the primary contributor being runoff from the use of salt for winter maintenance; and

WHEREAS the Ontario and Canadian governments have taken many actions over the past 25 years including setting water quality guidelines, developing voluntary codes of practice, signing the Canada-Ontario Great Lakes Agreement, and holding workshops, yet still the salt problem continues to grow; and

WHEREAS numerous situation analyses have recommended salt solutions involving liability protection, contractor certification, government-approved Best Management Practices (BMPs) and salt management plans; and

WHEREAS increased numbers of slip and fall claims, and other injury/collision claims related to snow and ice, are resulting in salt applicators overusing salt beyond levels considered best practices; and

WHEREAS unlimited contractor liability is making it difficult or expensive for snow and ice management contractors to obtain insurance coverage, resulting in contractors leaving the business, thereby making it difficult for municipalities and private owners to find contractors; and

WHEREAS the Snow and Ice Management Sector (SMS) of Landscape Ontario is working with the Ontario government to institute a limited liability regime for snow and ice management, including enforceable contractor training/certification and government-approved BMPs for salt application; and

WHEREAS many Ontario municipalities have Salt Management Plans, but these often require updating in light of improved science and better salt management practices now available; and

WHEREAS The Town of Georgina shares fifty-two (52) kilometers of beautiful Lake Simcoe shoreline and all 288 square kilometers of the Town of Georgina are encompassed by sub-watersheds that drain into Lake Simcoe; and

WHEREAS road authorities that use salt, such as the Town of Georgina, must abide by, and benefit from, established provincial regulations around snow clearing and maintenance, whereas private contractors only have voluntary programs for salt use for private and commercial property management; and

WHEREAS the Town of Georgina has demonstrated great initiative in salt mitigation efforts including committing to the use of rock salt alternatives, installation of electronic spreader controllers on all material spreading units, reduced application rates when appropriate, use of pre-wet and brine when appropriate, and an updated salt management plan that outlines salt best management practices specific to the Corporation of the Town of Georgina's winter maintenance operations

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. That the Town of Georgina urges the province of Ontario to work urgently with key stakeholders to develop limited liability legislation, including enforceable contractor training and a single set of provincially endorsed standard BMPs for snow and ice management; and
2. That the Town of Georgina urges the province of Ontario to create and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the province and municipalities on the best courses of action to protect freshwater ecosystems and drinking water from the impacts of salt pollution; and
3. That the Town of Georgina continues to commit to the reduction of the use of road salt as much as possible while meeting local service levels and maintaining safety on roads and sidewalks; and
4. That a copy of this resolution be sent to all municipalities in York Region, all Lake Simcoe watershed municipalities; The Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation and The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority requesting their endorsement; The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); all Lake Simcoe watershed MPPs; Conservation Ontario; The Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition; The Rescue Lake Simcoe

Coalition; Minister Todd McCarthy (MECP); Attorney General Doug Downey, and Premier Doug Ford.

(Advisement: This Notice of Motion will be discussed by Council at its meeting on April 2, 2025).

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2025-0008

Moved By Dave Neeson
Seconded By Lee Dale

That the Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee endorse the Notice of Motion regarding Salt Management.

Carried

Councillor Dave Neeson reclaimed the position of meeting Chair.

13. MOTIONS/NOTICES OF MOTION

None.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

15. CLOSED SESSION

None.

16. MOTION TO ADJOURN

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2025-0011

Moved By Mary-Lynn Seeley
Seconded By Austin Rooney

That the Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Carried

Councillor Dave Neeson, Chair

Samantha Naumoski, Committee Services Coordinator