



The Regional Municipality of Durham COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, October 25, 2024

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

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Members of Council – Please advise the Regional Clerk at clerks@durham.ca, if you wish to pull an item from this CIP and include on the next regular agenda of the appropriate Standing Committee. Items will be added to the agenda if the Regional Clerk is advised not later than noon the day prior to the meeting, otherwise the item will be included on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the applicable Committee.

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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2024-INFO-67
Date: October 25, 2024

Subject:

Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee's Nomination for the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (LSRCA) Conservation Awards, File A01-37

Recommendation:

Receive for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee's (DECAC) nomination for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) Conservation Awards, and that DECAC member, Geoff Carpentier, was the recipient of the George R. Richardson Award of Honour in 2024.

2. Background

2.1 In June 2022, the committee submitted a nomination to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) Conservation Awards, supporting its member, Geoff Carpentier, for the George R. Richardson Award of Honour. This award is presented to one recipient each year to recognize lifetime environmental achievement. DECAC's submission was brought forward to the 2024 round of nominations.

- 2.2 The LSRCA Conservation Awards aim to recognize individuals, groups, and businesses for environmental protection and conservation efforts in the Lake Simcoe Watershed. The program has five award categories, including: Healthy Water, Healthy Land, Healthy Community, the Ernie Crossland Young Conservationist Award, and the George R. Richardson Award of Honour.
- 2.3 The role of DECAC is to provide advice to the Region on environmental and climate-related matters. The Committee also has a role in implementing and participating in community outreach programs and stewardship that support environmental awareness and appreciation, as outlined in the 2024 DECAC Workplan.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 In January 2024, Council considered DECAC's 2023 Annual Report, 2024 Workplan and Terms of Reference through Report #[2024-P-2](#).

4. Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (LSRCA) Conservation Awards

- 4.1 On October 8, 2024, the LSRCA held its Annual Conservation Awards Ceremony, where it announced the 2024 award recipients. DECAC member, Geoff Carpentier, was the recipient of its most prestigious award, the George R. Richardson Award of Honour.
- 4.2 Mr. Carpentier has dedicated over 50 years of his professional and personal life to environmental conservation, including a successful career with the Ministry of Environment overseeing safe pesticide use and environmental protection, teaching a number of environmental courses at various institutions, and publishing several books and articles in periodicals. Since retiring, he continues his dedication to the environment by running his own environmental consulting company. He is an international nature guide, photographer, and lecturer for various institutions, and continues environmental education through regular contributions in newspapers, journals, and magazines. He also sits on a number of environmental boards and is a member of local environmental organizations and advisory committees including DECAC. His projects and accomplishments are summarized in Attachment 1.
- 4.3 A [video](#) dedicated to Mr. Carpentier was prepared by the LSRCA and presented at the Awards Ceremony. The video features members of DECAC highlighting his achievements and contributions to the environment.

4.4 The LSRCA Conservation Awards occur annually, celebrating the awards recipients, referred to as “Watershed Heroes”, with members of the community, elected officials, and environmental leaders from around the Lake Simcoe Watershed. By celebrating environmental success stories, the LSRCA aims to inspire others to conserve and protect Lake Simcoe and its watershed.

5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

5.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:

- a. Goal 1: Environmental Sustainability’s objective: To protect the environment for the future by demonstrating leadership in sustainability and addressing climate change.

6. Conclusion

6.1 DECAC is pleased that its nomination was successful in the 2024 round of the LSRCA Conservation Awards and congratulates Mr. Carpentier for his achievements and dedication to environmental conservation.

6.2 Information on all awards recipients in the other categories is available on the [LSRCA Conservation Awards webpage](#).

6.3 DECAC member Keiko Lui is commended for volunteering her time to prepare the nomination package. Additionally, DECAC Chair, Jay Cuthbertson, and members Keiko Lui, Ozair Chaudhry, and Bryan Widner are thanked for their involvement in the event, including participating in the filming of the award video and attending the event on behalf DECAC.

7. Attachments

Attachment 1: LSRCA Conservation Awards Nomination Package

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development

Dear Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Conservation Award committee:

On behalf of The Durham Environmental Advisory Committee, it is our great pleasure to nominate Geoff Carpentier for the George R. Richardson Award of Honour. Please accept for consideration our nomination package for the 2022 LSRCA Conservation Awards.

After considering the various awards you offer, we feel that Geoff is most deserving of being recognized for a lifetime of environmental achievement as his ongoing actions and initiatives have had a long-lasting and positive impact on Lake Simcoe's watershed health and quality.

For over 45 years, Geoff has carried out many different conservation focused projects such as loon surveys, waterfowl surveys, shorebird surveys, upland game bird surveys, Christmas Bird Counts and breeding bird studies – all of which have included in part LSRCA lands.

Since 2005 (17 years), Geoff has been an active contributor to Cornell's eBird project for more than 75 sites within LSRCA boundaries. Geoff contributes bird sightings data, trip summaries, photos and sound recordings, and has become a regional reviewer for eBird and is responsible for validating sightings of rare or unusual species. eBird *“transforms your bird sightings into science and conservation....with real-time data about bird distribution and abundance”*. The data is used by academia to develop protocols to enhance and protect the environment.

Professionally, Geoff worked at the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE, or now MOECP) for 35 years, working in York, Durham, Kawartha Lakes, and Simcoe Counties in all field facets to protect the environment. When he oversaw the pesticides program in these areas, at a time when they were most widely used, he ensured the public and industry was educated in the safe and proper use of pesticides, and oversaw investigations into possible harm caused to the environment due to pesticide misuse. Later, Geoff oversaw other protective provincial programs to develop regulations and best management practices to protect species at risk and other species not already protected by legislation; he also oversaw the MOE programs to assess and approve various industries, processes and landfills to ensure environmental protection (air, water, sewage, waste) were in place. Many of the facilities and processes were located on LSRCA lands.

Personally, Geoff has lived in the Lake Simcoe watershed for over a decade where he and his wife manage their 1.5 acre property as an eco-friendly site. It is home to a registered 200-year-old Heritage Tree, a small meadow and pollinator garden of native plants, and a pond that supports many breeding herptiles and insects. He builds nest enclosures for turtles which frequently nest in their yard and has 8 bird boxes and a bat box onsite. He is currently developing a second meadow and has encouraged several of his neighbours to do likewise

Since retiring from public service, Geoff has become an environmental consultant undertaking many projects related to breeding bird studies, many of which are in LSRCA boundaries; he has also become a professional guide leading tours that include LSRCA lands and frequently speaks to nature-focused and community associations about nature and how to protect it.

In addition to his post-retirement career, Geoff is consistently actively engaged in his community, sharing knowledge and information through articles, and nature talks and walks. Geoff does two litter cleanup routes within LSRCA boundaries, and he is part of his Church's (located within LSRCA boundaries) Green Team.

For the past 10 years, since 2012, Geoff has contributed as a writer to The Scugog and Uxbridge Standard Newspaper's bi-weekly nature column; as well, he has been editor and writer for the North Durham Nature Newsletter (based in LSRCA boundaries) since 2013, dealing with all aspects of natural history, including several site-specific articles about places and wildlife in the LSRCA watershed. Not only is he editor and writer for that newsletter, but Geoff is also a founding member of The North Durham Nature Club and served as a director on its Board of Directors from 2013 to 2018.

In 2015, Geoff was appointed by Council to the Scugog Environmental Advisory Committee (SEAC, jurisdiction includes LSRCA lands) where he continues to serve as a member and as a Chair for at least 4 of the seven years.

Before that, in 2012, Geoff was appointed the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee (DEAC, jurisdiction includes LSRCA lands), and has served as its Chair for the past 4 years to this day. Although outside LSRCA lands Geoff was also Chair and member of the Ajax Environmental advisory Committee.

Geoff's demonstrated commitment, dedication, and passion for protecting and conserving the environment for future generations, and the profound impact he has had on the Lake Simcoe Watershed throughout his many projects and initiatives, deems him the most deserving recipient of the George R. Richardson Award of Honour.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Aneesah Luqman, DEAC Staff Liaison, at Aneesah.Luqman@durham.ca or 905-668-4113 ext. 2546.

Sincerely,

The Durham Environmental Advisory Committee

Biographical Outline

Geoff is a specialist and expert on birds and mammals, with a particular interest in local nesting and migrating birds in the Kawarthas and nearby areas including Durham Region and the Lake Simcoe Watershed. While ornithology is his primary interest, he is well versed in all aspects of Ontario's flora and fauna and has more than 50 years of experience in the field.

Geoff has dedicated his professional and personal life to environmental conservation. During his career with the Ministry of the Environment (now MOECP), Geoff oversaw a myriad of programs that included proper pesticide use, species at risk, and various facets of environmental protection. He also taught a number of courses at various post-secondary institutions on environmental topics, including environmental protection and pesticides and their impacts on birds and other wildlife, as well as on bird watching. Geoff is a published author of several books, and is a regular author and editor of a number of ongoing publications (see list under Honours section of this nomination package).

Since retiring, he has continued to dedicate his time to preserve and protect the environment, and manages his own consulting company that specializes in environmental site assessments, breeding bird studies, and species at risk. He is also an international nature guide, photographer and lecturer for various organizations, and continues his work on environmental education through regular contributions in various newspapers, journals, and magazines. Geoff also sits on a number of boards, a member of local environmental organizations, and sits on various municipal committees that work within the Lake Simcoe Watershed or within the LSRCA jurisdiction, including the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee where he is currently the chair for the fourth consecutive year.

For a detailed list of projects and accomplishments, please see the "Details (Letter of Support)" and "Honours" sections of this nomination package.

Honours

Related Work Experience:

2005 to present: International nature guide, photographer and lecturer for:

Avocet Nature Services [Australia, New Zealand, India, Nepal, Belize, Guatemala, Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, USA, Canada]
Peregrine Adventures [Antarctica, Falklands, South Georgia, Iceland, Spitsbergen & Greenland]
Clipper Cruises [Alaska & Russia, Antarctica, Falklands, South Georgia]
Quark Expeditions [Antarctica, Falklands, South Georgia]
Quest Nature Tours [Taiwan, Cuba, Borneo, Galapagos]
Nature Colombia [Colombia]
One Ocean [Canada's Northwest Passage, Antarctica, Costa Rico, Panama, Mexico]
Ontario Field Ornithologists [Canada]
Toronto Ornithological Club [Canada]
Pickering Naturalists [Canada]
Federation of Ontario Naturalists [Canada]
Trent University & Parks Canada [Canada]

2006 to present: owner and principal of consulting company *Avocet Nature Services*. Specializations include: environmental site assessments; breeding bird studies, site characterization studies, and impact studies at solar and wind farms with a focus on avian breeding birds and Species at Risk (Ontario).

1973-2006: Ontario Ministry of the Environment - District Manager and Special Projects Coordinator. Held multiple positions with focuses on all aspects of Ontario's environment and its protection. Roles included biologist, pesticides specialist (managing impacts in part on avian species in agricultural, rural and urban centres) and manager working in the fields of environmental policy and legislation, hazardous contaminants, waste management, air and water pollution, compliance, inspection, approvals and strategic planning.

1970: Canadian Wildlife Service – Interpreter and Naturalist – Parks Canada. Conducted numerous avian surveys (e.g. upland game birds and migratory bird studies) and taught park visitors about birds and mammals on guided walks and during interpretive talks and ran youth interpretive program.

Education:

B.Sc. (Hons) – University of Guelph – zoology and biological sciences, including ornithology, botany, ichthyology and entomology. 1969-73

Teaching Experience:

1995-97 - Georgian College, Orillia. Taught courses in environmental protection and pesticides including impacts on birds and other wildlife

1987-99 - Sir Sandford Fleming College (Peterborough, Cobourg and Lindsay campuses). Taught courses in environmental protection and pesticides

including impacts on birds and other wildlife

1970-80s - Trent University & Peterborough County Board of Education – taught courses in bird watching

Publications (selected):

Antarctica – First Journey, Geoffrey Carpentier, 2009. Hidden Brook Press, Brighton, Ontario (357 pages)
The Mammals of Peterborough County, Geoff Carpentier, 1987. Orchid Press, Peterborough, Ontario (125 pages)
Pesticides Manuals - IPM and Aquatic Vegetation Control, G. Carpentier, 2010. Queen's Printer, Ontario (287 pages)

Author and/or Editor:

North Durham Nature Newsletter – editor and author (2013-present)
Orchid – (Newsletter of the Peterborough Field Naturalists – editor and author (1975-86 approx.)
OFO News (Newsletter of the Ontario Field Ornithologists) – editor and author (1985-1993) and Editorial Team & Book Review Editor (2012 - present)

Contributing Author for:

The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario - contributing author
Birdfinding Guide to Canada - contributing author
Ontario Birding News – contributing author & book reviews
Bird Watcher's Digest - contributing author & book reviews
Ontario Birds - contributing author & book reviews
Canadian Field Naturalists - contributing author & book reviews
Birder's Journal – contributing author & book reviews
Toronto Field Naturalists Newsletter - contributing author & book reviews
Ontario Birding News - contributing author & book reviews
Pickering Field Naturalists Newsletter - contributing author & book reviews
Durham Region Field Naturalists Newsletter - contributing author & book reviews
Aquatic Plant Management Society Journal (USA) – contributing author
Birds of Nunavut – contributing author

Newspaper and Magazine Columns:

Angler and Hunter - contributing columnist – birds and mammals
After Fifty - weekly newspaper column – birds and nature
The Scugog and Uxbridge Standard newspaper – bi-weekly nature column (2012-present)

Board Memberships - Current and Past:

Ontario Field Ornithologists - President 3 times, Board of Directors for 11 years,
founding member and Newsletter Editorial Team
Peterborough Field Naturalists - President 3 times and Board of Directors for 14 yrs.
Federation of Ontario Naturalists/Ontario Nature - Board of Directors for 3 terms
Bird Studies Canada – Chair and Trustee for 5 terms, Board of Directors for 3 terms
North Durham Nature Club - Board of Directors, Newsletter Editor and founding
member (ongoing)
Toronto Ornithological Club – Board of Directors

Other Organizations – Ongoing Commitments:

Scugog Lake Stewards – resource
Lakeridge Citizens for Clean Water - resource
Pickering Naturalists - member in good standing
Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System of Canada (ACSSC) - advisory committee

Municipal and nature-focused activities:

Ajax Environmental Advisory Committee (chair) – 4 terms
Durham Region Environmental Advisory Committee (chair) – 3 terms (ongoing)
Greenbank Public Liaison Committee – citizen member

Citizen Science projects (selected):

Loon Watch & Marsh Monitoring projects - Bird Studies Canada (BSC)
Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (Regional Coordinator) – 2 projects (1981-1985 and
2001-2005)
Gallinaceous Gamebird Surveys – Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)
Shorebird Surveys for Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) in southern Ontario and
James/Hudson Bay
Atlas of Nearctic Shorebirds – data contributor
Egret and Cormorant Breeding Surveys - CWS
Waterfowl surveys – CWS and MNR

Citizen Science projects (selected) - continued:

Hawk Monitoring for Hawk Monitoring Association of North America - Hawk
Mountain, Beamer and Cranberry Hawk Watches
Ontario Coordinator for the Great Backyard Bird Count – BSC
Ontario Nest Records Scheme - contributor for 35 years
Ontario Bird Records Committee - contributor for 25+ years
Goose Banding Project - Hudson Bay Lowlands in cooperation with Ohio Dept. of
Natural Resources
Hudson Bay Lowlands Habitat Assessment Study (MNR)

Baillie Bird-a-thon fundraiser - participant - 30+ years - twice proclaimed Celebrity
Birder for Ontario Field Ornithologists
Loggerhead Marsh Survey for MNR - coordinator
Rare Breeding Program (Ontario) – BSC
Owl Breeding Survey (Ontario) – MNR

Geoff Carpentier

LSRCA Award Nomination

Attachment 1 – Photos

(Photos can be made available in other formats upon request (e.g. JPEG, PNG, etc.) – please contact Aneesah.Luqman@durham.ca)



Geoff Carpentier, head shot



Geoff leading a North Durham Nature walk

Geoff Carpentier

Example 1: Counting Nesting Birds, Walk Softly, April 2021

Example 2: Heritage Trees, Walk Softly, February 2020

Example 3: 10 Fun Ways to Help You (and Kids) Love Winter, January 2018

Example 4: North Durham Nature Newsletter, Volume 7, No. 2, Co-written and edited by Geoff Carpentier

Walk Softly Counting Nesting Birds

GEOFF CARPENTIER



Every spring, I get excited as the birds start to return to Ontario from South and Central America. Life is emerging everywhere!

Even though nature sometimes seems to conspire against them with cold snaps following sunny days, birds persist. Fire, rain, wind, predators, agricultural and industrial activities, cars, cats and inadvertent human disturbance all work to thwart this important annual breeding cycle. But they must breed, and they will, if they didn't breed every year; there obviously wouldn't be any birds!

Studying the breeding behaviour, successes and failures of nesting species is an important activity because scientists can determine the health of the environment, both here and on their wintering grounds.

This year was the start of the 3rd Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, and it will run until 2025. Wait a minute, what is an atlas? I thought that was a book of maps? Well, it sort of is, but in this context, an atlas is a form of 'mapping breeding success' over a period of time, following set protocols, where birds are the subject of interest.

This is an incredibly intensive breeding bird survey which will involve thousands of volunteers across Ontario, tens of thousands of volunteer hours and hundreds of thousands of bits of data. The participants will try to find every breeding bird in all of Ontario, during this 5-year study. The entire province is subdivided into bite-sized chunks, generally 10x10 km squares in the south and 100x100 km squares in the far north. This

ensures concise coverage can be undertaken and impacts assessed, on a local basis, in a microcosm, rather than more broadly across all of Ontario, in a generalized manner.

Many organizations, such as: Birds Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Service (Ontario Region), Ontario Field Ornithologists, Ontario Nature and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry will bring this project to fruition. Once the project is complete in 2025, a report will be prepared to celebrate its success.

This is the third such atlas. The first was undertaken during 1980-1985, and the second during 2001-2005. With this type of history, one can realistically compare how our birds are doing over a long period of time.

Is development helping or hindering them? Which species are doing better? Worse? Unchanged? Are there trouble zones we could/should be protecting? So much can be learned from this citizen's science project.

Breeding success will be defined in one of three categories: possible, probable or confirmed. Obviously, 'confirmed' is preferable, as it shows a species is definitely breeding in an area. Still, there is merit in the other categories, particularly for rare and hard-to-find species.

One of the risks of this intensive study is, some birds may inadvertently be negatively impacted, as zealous birders try to 'confirm' breeding. So please remember, the well-being of the bird is far more important than

trying to find a nest! As noted above, the atlas has mechanisms built-in which are non-intrusive when it comes to trying to confirm breeding. If you do find a nest, it is always better to resist the temptation to look into the nest. Please don't separate the vegetation for a better view, stand too close, be noisy or do anything else which might disturb the breeding birds! Just stand back, watch, listen and observe the behaviour. Usually it will reveal what's happening.

I am co-leading the Atlas project in Durham Region with Glenn Coady of Whitby, so, if you'd like more information, or more importantly, want to be a part of the birding team, which will do the study in Durham Region, please let me know, at avocetnatureservices@gmail.com.

No, you do not have to be an expert birdwatcher, you just have to be aware and ready to learn, to assist with this important project. Even if you just want to submit incidental findings, such as a nest on your property, please let me know, so the data can be recorded and entered into the provincial database. Every bit of data counts!

Geoff Carpentier is a published author, expedition guide and environmental consultant. Visit Geoff on-line at www.avocetnatureservices.com and on LinkedIn and Facebook.

Walk Softly

GEOFF CARPENTIER

Heritage Trees



As Ontario continues to develop more and more land, not only does the extent of our forests get diminished, but also the quality. Long gone are the days where we could proudly look at 100 foot tall trees and proclaim their bounty and their beauty. Now they are an exceedingly rare sight anywhere in eastern Canada.

I am fortunate to live on a property that has one majestic tree still standing. As a long-time member of the Scugog Environmental Advisory Committee, I have always been interested in the health of our forests, so when we had spokespeople from Forests Ontario come to speak at one of our meetings, it enthralled me. Was my tree significant enough to include in their provincial registry? Time would tell.

According to the Forests Ontario website (www.forestsontario.ca), the Heritage Tree Program collects and tells the stories of Ontario's unique trees. Launched in 2009, in partnership with the Ontario Urban Forest Council, the program brings awareness to the social, cultural, historical and ecological value of trees. For a tree to qualify, it needs to be associated with a historic person or event, or be growing on historically significant land. The tree's prominence within the surrounding community and/or it also takes its use as a historical landmark into account, as are its form, shape, beauty, age, colour, size, rarity, genetic constitution and other distinctive features.

So, with this in mind, I did some research and found out that the original patent owner of the lands where I live was James Neville (1811), who sold the entire parcel to William Henderson in 1852. Then the south half was sold (where the tree is located) in about 1860 to Robert Stretton, after whom the historic community of Strettonville (later known as Strattonville) was

named. In 1929, ownership passed to Mr. Webster, whereby it then was occupied by the Adams family during the Depression and finally sold in 1964 to Larry Doble who developed the community in which I now live. Located just to the north of my property is the former town of Strattonville. The area near my home is steeped in history. The linkages to history helped me convince Forests Ontario and the representatives of their Heritage Tree Program to recognize my tree as a Heritage Tree! If you go to their website, my tree appears as:

Heritage Tree Number: HT-2018-236-247.
S P E C I E S : S u g a r M a p l e
Age: 200 years. Height: 22 m. SPREAD: 33 meters.
Circumference: 368 cm.

The accompanying online story is:

This Sugar maple is located on the ancestral lands of the Mississauga First Nation. It was a sapling in the forest that covered this area known as Reach Township, when it was surveyed in 1809.

The area became known as Reach Township in the early 1800s, when Colonel Reach slowly transformed the landscape. In 1811, the 200-acre parcel of Lot 1, Concession 8 where the Sugar Maple can be found was patented to James Neville. The property was later divided in 1815, with the north half of the lot sold off. Until 1821, the tree continued to grow in the south half with no settler development surrounding it.

During the decades that followed, the surrounding landscape experienced rapid clearing for farm and agricultural use. Despite the frequent changes in ownership, and the transformation of the acreage, they left the Sugar Maple untouched, and it still stands to this day at the estimated age of 200 years!

I also learned that these majestic trees often were used to replace surveyor stakes as property markers. So it is likely my tree was planted originally to define the southeast boundary of the parcel originally surveyed by Neville.

If you would like to nominate your own tree as a candidate for this program, please visit the following website: (www.forestsontario.ca).

What a joy it is to see this wonderful historical monument every time I look out my bedroom window! May it stand for another 100 years!

Geoff Carpentier is a published author, expedition guide and environmental consultant. Visit Geoff online at www.avocetnatureservices.com and on LinkedIn and Facebook.

Feb 6, 2020



Walk Softly

GEOFF CARPENTIER

10 Fun Ways to Help Kids (and You) Love Winter

My wonderful kids are all grown up and some have kids of their own now. That got me thinking that I'd like to share a few ideas about how you can amuse yourselves, your kids and your grandkids this winter, while focusing on the outdoors and nature.

So here are a few things you might consider doing outside this winter.

1. Put up a bird feeder and, better yet, add a wildlife cam. See the wonders of nature up close, through the eyes of children and the camera lens. Make it fun by keeping a diary of all the birds and animals you see. Maybe start a scrap booking project, where you encourage the kids to either draw the animals they see or find a picture of each one and glue it in the book, and add a fun fact about each. Maybe you can help them download a photo from the animal cam and use that in their scrapbook?

2. Build a snow castle or fort. It can be as big or as little as you like, as fancy or as plain as you want, but make sure it's safe and won't collapse on them. Help them design and build it, but let their own creativity lead, you might be

surprised how great their ideas are! Making ones with open tops are much safer than ones with roofs.

Build a slide from the top of the fort out onto the lawn, by spraying the slide with water. If you have some leftover cardboard lying around, use that to make the slide or add features to the fort, won't that be fun?

3. And while you're building snow forts, maybe add a snow sculpture, like a deer, a rabbit, a frog or a bird made out of snow. This will teach kids about art and nature at the same time. Encourage them to make the feature as scientifically accurate as possible. Make it last even longer by freezing it with some water after it's completed.

4. Make snow bubbles: Every kid has a bottle of bubble making fluid. Go outside and blow bubbles. They'll freeze solid in no time if it's cold enough, and can be picked up and studied. See how the light changes as you look through them at different angles!

Continued on page 11.

Continued from page 7.

5. Visit an Animal Shelter or, better yet, volunteer to walk a dog when you're there. Do this for a day, a week or all year. The animals will love it and you'll be helping the staff, animals and your kids immensely. But be careful puppies can be addictive!

6. Visit a nature exhibit at a local museum, or go to an aquarium or zoo. While you're there, try to learn something about each animal you see. Take notes in your diary (see #1 above) and learn even more when you get home.

7. Take a nature hike. Collect pine cones, twigs and sticks, and learn how they look in comparison to what they look like in other seasons, and then use them to make crafts later on. Maybe you will find a used bird nest as they're much easier to spot at this time of year. It's okay to bring it home and then try to identify what bird made it and learn something about that bird.

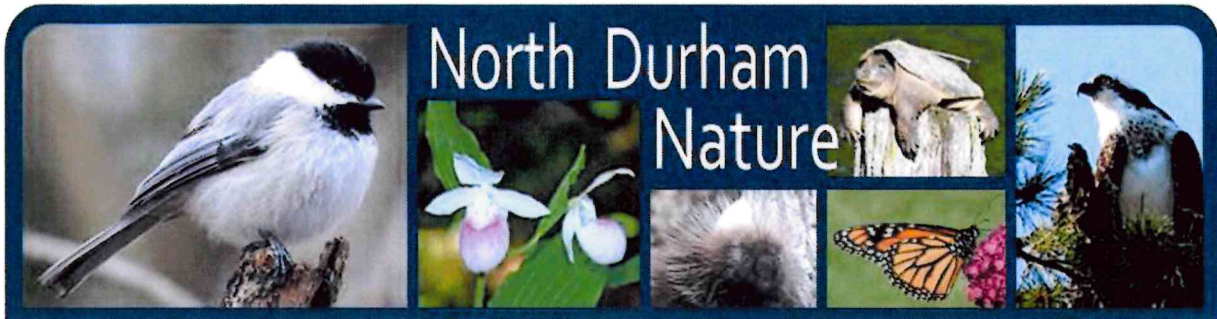
8. Study animal tracks in the snow and see if you can figure out what made them. Was it a mouse, rabbit, squirrel, deer, or something even more exciting? Learn something about each animal you identify.

9. Help others. Volunteer to help kids learn something about nature or give a talk to a local nature club, Beavers, Scouts, Girl Guides, etc., if you have the expertise. Make sure you take your kids along so they can learn and share the adventure with you.

10. Go on an outing with North Durham Nature and learn from the experts about birds, mammals, insects, plants and so much more. (www.northdurhamnature.com)

So there you have it. Make this winter the best ever for you, your kids and your grandkids!

Geoff Carpentier is a published author, ecotour guide and environmental consultant. Visit Geoff online, at www.avocetnatureservices.com and on LinkedIn and Facebook.



Heritage Tree

Text and photo by Geoff Carpentier

I am fortunate to live on a property that has a 200 year old Sugar Maple tree still standing, but some months ago I wondered if anyone cared. Was my tree significant enough to be included in the provincial registry administered by Forests Ontario (www.forestsontario.ca) that collects information about Ontario's unique trees?

Launched in 2009, in partnership with the Ontario Urban Forest Council, the program brings awareness to the social, cultural, historical and ecological value of trees. In addition to other factors (e.g. form, shape, beauty, age, colour, size, rarity and genetic constitution) for a tree to qualify, it must be associated with an historic person or event, or be growing on historically significant land.



After doing some research I discovered that the original patent owner of the lands where I live was James Neville (1811), who sold the entire parcel to William Henderson in 1852. In about 1860, the south half, where the tree is actually located, was sold to Robert Stretton, after whom the historic (but now gone) community of Strettonville (later known as Strattonville) was named. In 1929, ownership passed to Mr. Webster and finally the land was sold in 1964 to Larry Doble, who then developed the lands on which I now live. The former town of Strattonville is located just to the north of my property. So the area near my home is steeped in history.

After extensive consultation, Forests Ontario and the representatives of their Heritage Tree Program recognized my tree as a Heritage Tree! If you go to their website, my tree appears as:

HERITAGE TREE NUMBER:

HT-2018-236-247

SPECIES : Sugar Maple

AGE: 200 years

HEIGHT: 22 m

SPREAD : 33 meters

CIRCUMFERENCE: 368 cm

The accompanying online story is as follows:

“This Sugar maple is located on the ancestral lands of the Mississauga First Nation. It was a sapling in the forest that covered this area, currently known as Reach Township, when it was surveyed in 1809.

The area became known as Reach Township in the early 1800s, when Colonel Reach slowly began to transform the landscape. In 1811, the 200-acre parcel of Lot 1, Concession 8, where the Sugar Maple can be found, was patented to James Neville. The property was later divided in 1815, with the north half of the lot sold off.

Until 1821, the tree continued to grow in the south half with no settler development surrounding it.

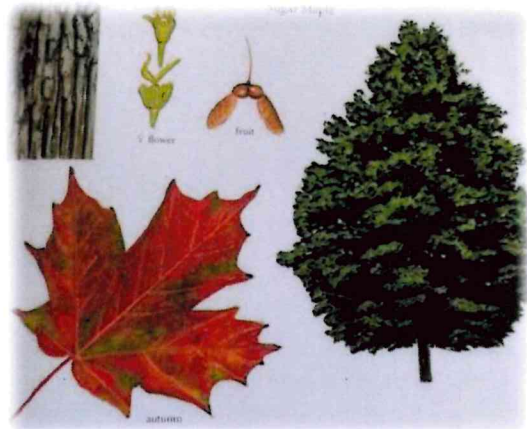
During the decades that followed, the surrounding landscape experienced rapid clearing for farm and agricultural use. Despite the frequent changes in ownership and the transformation of the acreage, the Sugar Maple was left untouched and still stands to this day at the estimated age of 200 years!”

I also learned that these majestic trees often were used to replace surveyor stakes as property markers. So it is likely my tree was planted originally to define the southeast boundary of the parcel originally surveyed by Neville.

If you would like to learn more about the program or nominate your own tree as a candidate for this program, please visit (www.forestsontario.ca).

What a joy it is to see this wonderful historical monument every time I look out my bedroom window! May it stand for another 200 years!

A bit of info about the Sugar Maple



Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharin*) – This native species can be found throughout southern Ontario and the northeastern USA. It is a long-lived (up to 400 years) tree with a

single main trunk. Towering to heights of 35 meters, it forms an integral part of many southern Ontario mixed forests. The tiny yellow flowers appear at the end of short filamentous stalks, while the seeds are borne on the typical maple key that “helicopters” them to new planting locations. The leaves are three to five-lobed and show the typical orange/red colouration in the fall.

Who doesn’t love maple syrup? Well, if you do, you must appreciate this lovely tree as it produces the sap that makes this tasty condiment!

Note: photo page above re the Sugar Maple is from Princeton Field Guide “Trees of Eastern North America” by Nelson, Earle and Spellenberg, 2014.

Did you know that the Sugar Maple is the maple featured on our Canadian flag?

Secret Garden

The Barton Trail

*Photos and text by Derek Connelly
except Red-bellied Snake photo
by Geoff Carpentier*

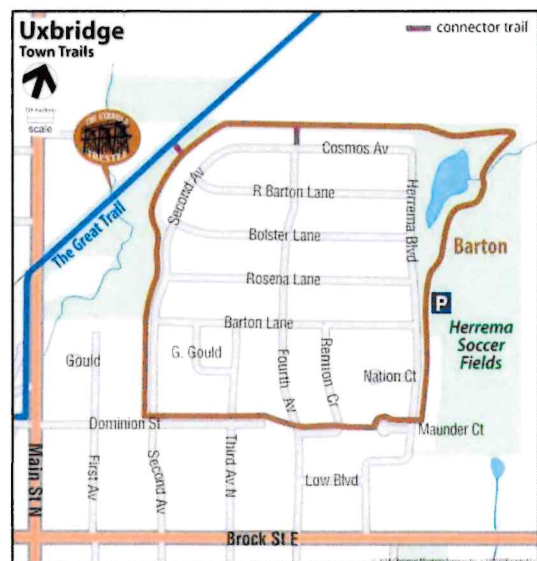
The Barton Trail is part of Uxbridge’s trails network and circles the subdivision named after the former Barton Farms. The 2 km trail passes Herrema Soccer Fields and a retention pond and is bordered by wetland, forest and meadow with links to the Great Trail (formerly called TransCanada Trail).

While most of the trail is along paved sidewalks the “wilder” parts are easy to get to. The retention pond is a stopping place for waterfowl in the spring and summer. Approaching slowly and quietly can reveal Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Bufflehead, Mallards and Canada Geese at the right time of year.



Red-winged Blackbirds, nesting in the cattails, are regular summer visitors. Spring Peepers, Wood Frogs, Bullfrogs, Green Frogs and Leopard Frogs can be seen and heard in the spring. One fall I discovered a Snapping Turtle baby beside the trail. A variety of small fish inhabit the pond and move in and out via the adjacent creek with fluctuations in the water levels.

The shoreline has recently benefitted from a community native planting event. The pond serves as a water retention pond. Its depth must be maintained by dredging so that it can collect the sediments in the runoff from our town’s streets. The cattails here are key plants in filtering any heavy metals out of the water before it joins the



Uxbridge Brook watershed. A couple of old bird houses along the trail assisted Tree Swallow and Black-capped Chickadee families for a few years in the past and now await new tenants and landlords.

Moving away from the pond, the trail changes to the paved walkway with backyards facing the woods where birds seek refuge after flitting back and forth from the occasional backyard bird feeder. A small sandy meadow, used by children to test out their new bikes on rolling hills and kid-made jumps, also provides habitat for a number of lesser seen creatures. Under a wooden board one summer day I discovered Eastern Gartersnake, Red-bellied Snake and Decay Brownsnake - all curled up enjoying the heat.



Continuing along the paved trail, you reach the first of two connections to the Great Trail. This was once the rail line for trains from Sunderland and towns to the northeast. The second connection leads to an old trestle bridge over the Uxbridge Brook and the John McCutcheon way, which leads you into town. Check out the interpretive signs to learn more.

The Barton Trail leaves the wooded area rising up to Second Avenue, passing a



small field used for tobogganing in the winter and hosting many wildflowers in the summer. The local scouts have planted a number of native plants here. It's a good spot for butterflies and other insects too. Back on the sidewalk, the trail exits towards Dominion Street, where some century homes still stand. Here tall maples show their colour each fall and small front gardens remind us of our struggle to keep connected to the natural world.

Spotlight on Frogs

The Western Chorus Frog

*Story by James Kamstra
Chorus Frog photo by James Kamstra and
Spring Peeper by Geoff Carpentier*

One of the first frogs to come out of hibernation in the spring is the tiny Western Chorus Frog. Along with Spring Peepers and Wood Frogs, it moves to vernal pools and begins calling in vociferous choruses in late March or early April. The call is frequently described as a trill that is like the sound of rubbing one's finger on a hard comb. Although often heard, the tiny Chorus Frog is almost never seen. Observing a calling Wood Frog is quite easy. Homing in on a calling Spring Peeper (see photo next page) is more

challenging but can be done with perseverance. But finding a calling Chorus Frog is nearly impossible. Either it will call while concealed under a tuft of vegetation or it will cease calling when a human tries to get close.

Although the Western Chorus Frog's call is quite distinct, Spring Peepers sometimes emit a trill call, instead of the usual "peep-peep-peep". That trill can be mistaken for a Chorus Frog, particularly by inexperienced surveyors. Since nearly all records are auditory without observation of the animal, there is some question as to whether all historic Chorus Frog records have been correctly identified.

Western Chorus Frogs are much more common in the northern part of Durham (especially Brock Township) than in the south, and they are almost completely absent from the Oak Ridges Moraine. The Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas coordinated by Ontario Nature, documents sporadic records from the portion of Durham south of the moraine.

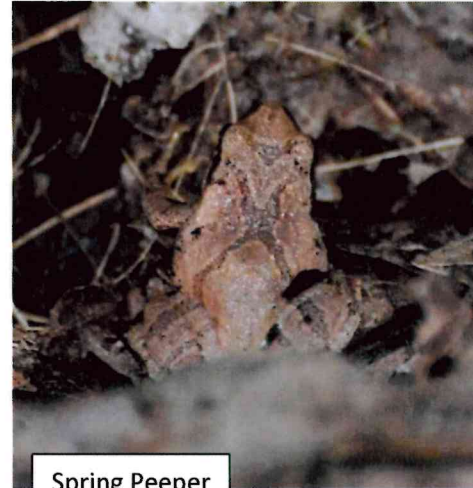
Many records from there are well over 25 years old and likely represent populations that have disappeared through expanding urbanization. There are also some recent records in the south such as those near Newtonville, Courtice and Pickering, but those populations appear to be isolated.



Chorus Frog

Adult Chorus Frogs sing heartily from their ephemeral breeding pools for about three weeks, primarily in April. They breed in pools that are at least 10 cm deep, fishless and that hold water for at least two months.

Pools need to be in open habitats such as meadows, meadow marshes and thicket swamps. They will even lay eggs in



Spring Peeper

flooded agricultural fields, but these will only be successful if standing water remains sufficiently long. Chorus frogs do not favour closed canopy swamps. While many of their breeding wetlands are lost through development, others become unsuitable through natural succession.

Each female frog deposits 400 to 1500 eggs, which are fertilized by a clasping male as they are being laid. Tadpoles hatch in about two weeks,

then transform into froglets after about two months.

Development is dependent on temperature though and can range anywhere from 40 to 90 days. Once frogs leave the water, they will live most of their short lives on land. They breed at one year of age, but most

individuals do not live to see a second breeding season. As a result, breeding ponds can experience local extirpation if even one breeding season completely fails.

Some anomalies are associated with this species. The Federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) classifies the Great Lakes population of the Western Chorus Frog as 'Threatened', while the Carolinian population is designated 'Not at Risk'. But the distinction between the two populations is not clear, just a somewhat arbitrary line stretching between Sarnia and Hamilton. Meanwhile the provincial Endangered Species Act (ESA) has assessed all of the southern Ontario populations as 'Not at Risk'. Surprisingly, Chorus Frogs in the Carolinian Zone (where habitat loss has been severe) have not shown a significant population decline, but those in southeastern Ontario and adjacent Quebec have.

Recent genetic research on Chorus Frogs has provided exciting but seemingly inconsistent results. Chorus Frogs occur in two widely separated parts of the province: a) from the southern edge of the Canadian Shield south through the rest of southern Ontario and b) northern Ontario from Lake Superior north to Hudson Bay and west to the Manitoba border. Originally the two ranges were treated as different subspecies but in 1989 they were reclassified as two distinct species: Western Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*) in the south and Boreal Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris maculata*) in the north. The two species are nearly identical. The Boreal has shorter legs and a slightly different call than the Western. More recent genetic research on their mitochondrial DNA, however, is indicating something different. The Chorus Frogs in southeastern Ontario are apparently Boreals, while the southwestern ones are Westerns! Not everyone is accepting this taxonomic result: SARA and the ESA continue to regard all of the southern Ontario Chorus Frogs as Westerns.

A new project is being launched in spring 2020 to better understand the range and population trends of Western Chorus Frogs across southern Ontario. Blazing Star Environmental, the Canadian Wildlife Service and Trent University are together coordinating a long-term, volunteer-based monitoring program to detect and respond to chorus frog population declines. Success of this program will depend on having a strong foundation of volunteers to conduct 5-minute auditory surveys during the spring calling season. If you are interested in participating in these surveys please email info@blazingstar.ca for more information.

Fact or Fiction?

*By Dave Mudd
in collaboration with Cara Gregory*

- 1. THE EARLIEST BLOOMING SPRING WILDFLOWER, IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO, IS A DANDELION ... T/F**
- 2. TURKEY VULTURES ARE BIRDS OF PREY ... T/F**

What do you think? Please see page 8 to find out if these statements are fact or fiction.

Native Plant Spotlight

Prairie Smoke, *Geum triflorum*

Text and photos by Brenda Near

Do you have a well-drained, sunny spot in your garden or a rock garden? Then try growing Prairie Smoke. This spring blooming native is pure delight! Diminutive in size (6-12"), Prairie Smoke makes a nice edging plant and looks wonderful with early blooming native Hairy Beardtongue or small native grasses. *Geum triflorum* is an endangered



plant in Ontario as it is “primarily a prairie species that reaches the eastern limits of its range in Ontario” (http://www.rbg.ca/archive/rare/epo_gtri.htm). It is typically found growing in Alvars; so if you want to see it growing in the wild, visit Carden Alvar near Kirkfield around the end of May/ beginning of June. (<http://www.couchichingconserv.ca/in-the-field/the-carden-alvar/>)



In my garden, Prairie Smoke begins to flower towards the end of May. The pinky red flowers rise up on a hairy, reddish stem from a set of green basal leaves, which are also hairy, paired, slender and notched. The flowers are in sets of three, hence the *triflorum* part of their Latin name. Offering Bumblebees an early nectar and pollen source, Prairie Smoke’s nodding flowers open and stand up straight once they are pollinated. While the

flowers are pretty, it is the next phase that is the spectacular part of this plant. As the flowers fade they produce 2 inch long plumes on the seed heads. The greyish pink billows are what lend the plant its common name. The seed plumes last and are attractive in the garden until July.

Reference:
<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/prairie-smoke>; Peterson Field Guide “Wildflowers Northeastern/North Central North America

Birder Murder Mystery

*Text by Steve Burrows
 Photo by Geoff Carpentier*

Canada’s own birdwatching detective, Domenic Jejeune, will soon be appearing on TV screens at home and overseas. Jejeune is the lead character in a series of novels - *The Birder Murder Mysteries*, penned by local Durham author Steve Burrows. The series has been optioned for a TV series by Canadian producers Shaftesbury, in partnership with the UK’s Company Pictures.



Here is Steve in Colombia doing research for a *Shimer* of Hummingbirds while on an NDN tour

Work on script development is already underway and Steve has held talks with both Shaftesbury and Company Pictures to discuss some of the ways the series might be brought to the screen. "At the moment, the idea seems to be to shoot the series on location in North Norfolk," said Steve, "which I think is a great decision. The producers are also keen to ensure the accuracy of the birding elements, which is obviously a very important feature of the books."

Shaftesbury is well-known to Canadians as the producers of the Murdoch Mysteries, and Company Pictures has also produced a number of highly successful series. "Given the track record of these two companies in producing great TV shows, I have no doubt the Birder Murder Mysteries are in the right hands," said Steve. "I've always had my own ideas about how they would look on TV, so I'll be really interested to see how they are interpreted by someone else."

There are currently six novels in the Birder Murder Mystery series, and the TV series will draw on plot elements from the books, as well as featuring original material developed by the screenwriters. Steve is currently working on a seventh novel, with publication likely to be timed to coincide with the release of the TV series. "At least, that's the plan at the moment," said Steve. As usual, he's keeping the title and featured bird species to himself for now. But then, from a writer of mystery novels, what else would you expect?

Answers to Fact or Fiction Quiz

Photos by Geoff Carpentier

IS THE EARLIEST BLOOMING SPRING WILDFLOWER IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO THE DANDELION?

The earliest blooming spring wildflower in Southern Ontario is Coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*) NOT Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*).



In Southern Ontario, Coltsfoot flowers in late March, often before the last snow melts. Flower heads have even been known to push through snow. Dandelions bloom later in the season (April to September). Although both plants have a similar looking yellow flower, there are several differences. Coltsfoot has a scaly stem with a dark yellow centre, its flower is smaller (6-10

mm diameter) and it grows from rhizomes. Dandelion flowers grow on leafless, hollow stalks containing a milky sap, and are larger (20-50 mm diameter) and this plant grows from a tap root. Both have basal leaves, but the Coltsfoot leaf is “hoof shaped”, giving the plant its name, and contains tiny hairs, distinctive from the deeply toothed hairless leaves of the Dandelion.

ARE TURKEY VULTURES ARE BIRDS OF PREY?



Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) don't prey on anything. They are scavengers, so they only feed on animals that are already dead. Unlike most birds, the Turkey Vulture has a keen sense of smell, allowing it to find carrion while soaring overhead with its close to 2m wing span. Belonging to the family (*Cathartidae*), also known as *New World vultures*, they were classified as birds of prey until quite recently. It was most likely its soaring flight, curved beak for tearing, and the fact that it eats meat, that led scientists to categorize them as raptors. They do not have the talons for gripping prey that raptors have and their bald head and large nostrils are adaptations for eating carrion. DNA research has

revealed that they are not related to birds of prey. Their closest living genetic relatives are storks.

Nasty & Nifty Nature News

by Geoff Carpentier

Red Pandas; A recent study conducted by the University of Queensland Australia indicates that the population of Red Pandas in India, China and Nepal has declined by 50% since 2000. The reason – poaching of course. But the rub is that there is no market demand for this species, so why is it being poached? The reason may be that the very researchers who are studying its decline may be responsible for its demise. The researchers travelled throughout Nepal pretending to be buyers and may have inadvertently convinced local entrepreneurs that there was a demand – oops!

Covid-19: Inadvertent Covid-19 outcomes are surfacing. It seems that the global output of greenhouse gases is declining and air pollution indices in many countries are declining as well as people stay home in isolation. One bad outcome is that according to the UK's Daily Mail. Chinese government officials are foolishly trying to convince people to kill stray dogs (defined as any dog off a leash) as they believe they are carriers of the disease. Chinese officials deny they are encouraging culling the dogs due to Covid-19. They claim they are merely trying to control stray dog populations. The Coronavirus pandemic has had an unexpected side effect in Venice, where the normally cloudy canals have transformed into water that is crystal clear enough to see fish swimming below.

Italy's tourism industry came to a screeching halt once the number of Coronavirus cases began to spike in the country, but those who remain have been posting to social media images of the traffic-free canals.

China Banning trade and consumption of wild animals: China has just announced that the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) is temporarily banning the trade and consumption of wild animals. The ban, which takes immediate effect, covers not just wild-caught species, but also the hunting, trading and transport of all terrestrial wild animals for human consumption. It also applies to wild animals born and raised in breeding facilities. The ban on wildlife trade and consumption is an attempt to limit the exposure of people to wild animals that could carry viruses that humans haven't encountered before and can't effectively defend against. There is a growing call for China to keep the ban in place permanently and amend its wildlife laws accordingly. Hopefully this is the first step!

Ontario government funding 85 local projects to protect Species at Risk: A news release issued by the Ontario government on March 4, 2020 reads:

Today, Minister Jeff Yurek announced the government is delivering over \$4 million in 2019-20 and up to \$4.5 million in 2020-21 to support projects by non-profit organizations, Indigenous communities and other stakeholder groups through the Species at Risk Stewardship program. "Everyone has a role to play in protecting and recovering at-risk species and their habitat," said Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

"Our government is proud to support on-the-ground projects that promote strong environmental stewardship and help preserve Ontario's rich biodiversity for future generations". For a complete list of the 2019-20 projects visit: <https://news.ontario.ca/ene/en/2020/3/ontario-helping-communities-protect-species-at-risk.html>

US government relaxes rules re bird deaths: The New York Times reported that US Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing legislative changes that would drop the threat of punishment to oil and gas companies, construction crews and other organizations that kill birds "incidentally". Opponents to the change correctly state that fines and prosecution have, for decades, helped prod industries to take steps to protect birds. Industry leaders and government officials said they expected businesses to continue to voluntarily protect bird habitats. Essentially the government's response is that unless it can be shown that the company deliberately set out to kill birds, they would be exempt. Even before the legislation has been passed wildlife officials have stopped investigating complaints involving the death of birds and other wildlife.

In a related story, amendments to the **US Clean Water Act**, called the Navigable Waters Protection Rule, removes Clean Water Act protections for many rivers, streams, and wetlands that could now allow them to be altered, degraded or filled. Looks like we keep moving closer and closer to destroying our planet in the name of business.

Nature Quiz

by Geoff Carpentier

This is clearly a species of swan but which one? There are three species of swans we could expect to see in our area. Two breed here and one is a spring migrant.



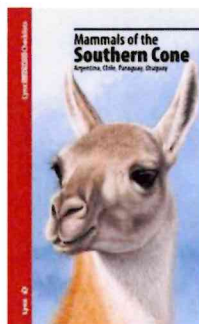
Book Reviews

by Geoff Carpentier

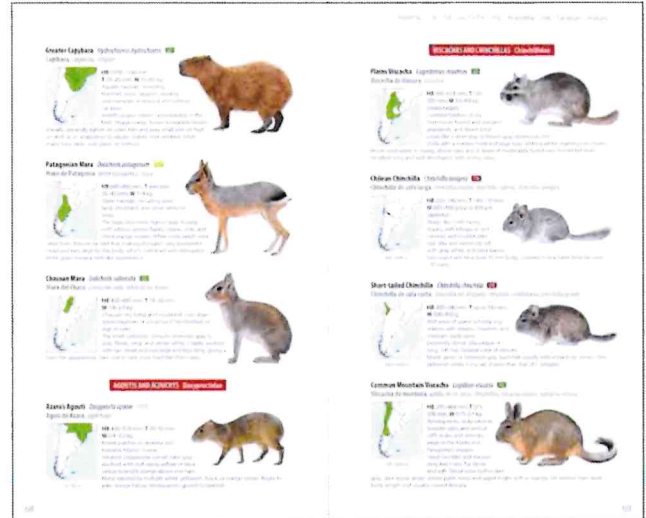
Mammals of the Southern Cone – Argentina, Chile, Paraguay & Uruguay. Compiled by Albert Martinez Vilalta. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona, Spain. 2020. 22€. 160 pages, softcover. ISBN: 978-84-16728-26-8.

Lynx recently completed the publication of its monumental eight volume set of the Handbook of the Mammals of the World. This was an expensive undertaking, but I bought all eight volumes as I have a strong interest in mammals and there has never been such an amazing collection ever offered.

Working on the success of the first offering, Lynx is now offering a new version of the books at a fraction of the cost. These small format books show the mammals of the



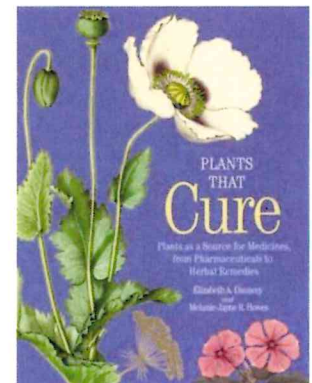
world by region. So now if you're interested in only southern South America you can buy this one volume for 22€ (about \$32 CDN).



The format is similar to the originals but concise. Each plate (see sample above) shows 2-8 species with a range map for each, details of habitat and distinguishing features. The paintings are spectacular and accurate. The maps are small but totally readable. This will be an asset to any traveler who can appreciate how rare good mammal books are for regions around the world outside of Africa, North America and Europe. I plan to own the complete set!

Plants That Cure. Elizabeth Dauncey and Melanie-Jayne Howes. Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J. 2020. \$29.95 USD. 224 pages, hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-691-20018-7.

This full colour book documents many plants that have significant medicinal properties. As a sequel to her book *Plants That Kill*, Dauncey revisits the other side of plants – those that can help us cure diseases. The



layout of the book is eye-pleasing and very easy to read. Fact-filled, it informs the reader in an enjoyable way about the lives and uses of many plant species. Dauncey and Howe explain both historical and modern uses of many plants that have led to treatments for circulatory issues, fertility and some forms of cancer. I showed the book to my niece who is a naturopathic doctor and she was very impressed. That is meaningful to me, because as a layperson I might like the layout but was the content good? Apparently so. If you have an interest in botany, herbs, natural remedies, or medicinal plants in general, then check out this great book.

Answers to Quiz

Photos by Geoff Carpentier

Okay the three choices are Mute, Tundra and Trumpeter Swans. The Mute can be separated out by the fact it has a pinkish and black beak, but on our bird on page 11 the bill is black. But beware that young Trumpeters and Tundras also have a decidedly bi-coloured beak (see photo below of a young Trumpeter).



Okay so how do we tell a Trumpeter from a Tundra Swan?

There are several characteristics one can look at. Seen side by side, the Trumpeter is much bigger and longer necked. Other



differences are subtle. For example, where the white of the forehead meets the base of the beak the Trumpeter shows a v-shaped line of black, while the Tundra shows a straight shaped juncture. The bill of the Trumpeter is more convex, while the Tundra is concave. The black of the beak encompasses the eye, while in the Tundra it does not. And that's kind of it .. Although the Tundra usually shows a bit of yellow near the base of the beak, it doesn't always do so and to complicate it more – the Trumpeter can show some yellow but it is usually patchy and often scattered across the surface of the beak, rather than at its base.

So based on our photo, the black at the base of the beak extends to the eye, the beak is convex shaped and the point where the forehead meets the beak is v-shaped across, so this is a Trumpeter Swan. The picture of the adult Tundra above shows the more concave bill and the straight line at the base of the bill, typical of a Tundra Swan.

Last Thoughts

by Geoff Carpentier

How did Covid-19 move from animals to humans?

This is a tricky question and much speculation has been presented online and in the media. Everything from bats to pangolins to cats, snakes, dogs and more have been blamed. Actually it appears we may be the culprit. A recent report by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC) indicates how the transfer may have taken place and why we should worry about the future. Chris Walzer, Executive Director of WCS indicated that it is most likely that the evolutionary or ancestral host was a bat, but it is uncertain if this is the real intermediary host or how it moved from bats to humans.

Coronaviruses are a group of viruses with exceptionally high mutation rates that are known to exist in bats, rodents, camels and cats. The Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) are categorized as Coronaviruses. Viruses naturally mutate and are able to recombine to create new viruses. So wildlife trading and meat markets, where multiple live species are kept together and butchered on the same surfaces, prove a perfect breeding ground for novel pathogens.

Walzer said that the animals are captured in the wild or raised on a wildlife farm and transported to a market, where they interact with other species from different locations. The animals are confined under stressful and crowded conditions and therefore potentially spread viruses between species. The viruses can then mutate and interfaces to humans are created. One of the main

means of stopping this is to ban both illegal and legal trade in wildlife and to ban outright any open market stalls that specialize in the trafficking of wildlife. This would of course show a huge benefit to wildlife as well since many species are being harvested to extinction.

*Coming soon to
everywhere near you!*

photos by Geoff Carpentier



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and our website

www.northdurhamnature.com

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about NDN*

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Undaunted – our own Derek Connelly is knee deep in muck to make sure our feathered friends have a place to live when they return this spring!

photo by Elizabeth Calvin



The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Finance
Report: #2024-INFO-68
Date: October 25, 2024

Subject:

Annual Reporting of Commodity Price Hedging Agreements for the Region of Durham for the 2023 Fiscal Year

Recommendation:

Receive for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the details of the Commodity Price Hedging Agreements for the Region of Durham for the year ending December 31, 2023, in accordance with the Region's Commodity Price Hedging Agreements: Statement of Policies and Goals and Ontario Regulation 653/05.

2. Previous Reports and Decisions

2.1 On June 20, 2007, Regional Council approved the Commodity Price Hedging Agreements: Statement of Policies and Goals for the Region of Durham ([Report #2007-F-53](#)). This policy provides the Region with the appropriate framework and guidelines when considering commodity price hedging agreements which can assist in providing greater price stability and certainty during periods of price volatility.

2.2 On September 27, 2023 Regional Council through [Report #2023-F-18](#), approved amendments to the Region's Statement of Policies and Goals which modernized the policy including allowing for a wider range of risk control measures for particular commodity price hedging policy agreements.

2.3 Staff reports to Council annually on Commodity Price Hedging Agreements. The 2022 report ([Report #2023-INFO-69](#)) was presented on August 18, 2023.

3. Reporting Requirements

3.1 As noted in the Statement of Policies and Goals, the Commissioner of Finance and Treasurer shall report to Council annually with respect to any and all commodity price hedging agreements that are in place. The report shall contain, as a minimum, all requirements as set out in Ontario Regulation 653/05 and will consist of:

- A summary of any contingent payment obligations under the commodity price hedging agreement that, in the opinion of the Commissioner of Finance and Treasurer, would result in a material impact for the municipality, including agreement termination provisions, equipment loss, equipment replacement options and guarantee indemnities; and
- A summary of the assumptions applicable to any possible variations in the commodity price hedge agreement payment and contingent payment obligations.

4. The Region's Current Natural Gas Consulting Agreement

4.1 As approved by Council through [Report #2019-F-40](#) (Request for Proposals RFP #348-2019), Blackstone Energy Services Inc. was awarded the contract for the provision of consulting and related services for the supply of natural gas for the Region for a three-year term with an option to extend for up to two additional one-year terms. The new contract was made effective November 28, 2019 and the Region recently exercised the last of the two additional one-year terms and is currently undertaking a competitive procurement process to ensure the Region has a vendor in place for when the current contract ends.

The Region's Current Natural Gas Price Hedging Strategy

4.2 The Region currently has almost 25,500 m³/day of natural gas volumes committed to the distribution system through its Direct Purchase Agreement. The Region was billed for almost 10.8 million m³ in total natural gas volumes for the 2023 calendar year at an estimated cost of almost \$6.2 million (including all applicable taxes) across all Enbridge accounts including DRLHC locations (approximately \$5.3 million excluding DRLHC accounts).¹

4.3 In the 2023 fiscal year, to hedge against seasonal volatility, the Region entered into the following fixed price transactions:

¹ DRLHC accounts receive natural gas through either the Housing Services Corporation (HSC) natural gas bulk purchase program or through OEB-approved system gas rates (approved and updated on a quarterly basis).

2023 Fixed Block Transactions for Natural Gas Supply for Regional Managed Pools

Start Date	End Date	GJ/day	Cost per Unit	
11/01/2022	10/31/2023	50	\$6.65/GJ	\$0.256/m ³
11/01/2022	10/31/2023	100	\$6.97/GJ	\$0.268/m ³
11/01/2022	10/31/2023	45	\$7.33/GJ	\$0.282/m ³
11/01/2022	10/31/2023	40	\$7.55/GJ	\$0.290/m ³
11/01/2022	10/31/2023	40	\$8.84/GJ	\$0.340/m ³
11/01/2022	10/31/2023	100	\$7.69/GJ	\$0.296/m ³
11/01/2022	10/31/2023	125	\$6.08/GJ	\$0.234/m ³
11/01/2022	10/31/2024	125	\$6.57/GJ	\$0.253/m ³
11/01/2022	10/31/2024	65	\$6.21/GJ	\$0.234/m ³
11/01/2022	10/31/2024	60	\$6.42/GJ	\$0.247/m ³
11/01/2023	03/31/2024	100	\$4.61/GJ	\$0.177/m ³
11/01/2023	03/31/2024	50	\$4.82/GJ	\$0.185/m ³
11/01/2023	03/31/2024	95	\$4.33/GJ	\$0.167/m ³
11/01/2023	03/31/2024	50	\$4.93/GJ	\$0.190/m ³
11/01/2023	10/31/2024	50	\$4.42/GJ	\$0.170/m ³
11/01/2023	10/31/2024	50	\$4.53/GJ	\$0.174/m ³
11/01/2023	10/31/2024	100	\$4.29/GJ	\$0.165/m ³

Notes: Costs are landed, not including local tolls from CDA Enbridge to Union Dawn. Gigajoule (GJ) conversion to cubic metres (m³) assumes 1 GJ = 26 m³.

- 4.4 Overall, through the execution of the hedges for 2023, it is estimated that the Region's hedging activity resulted in costs that were approximately \$0.14/m³ higher than otherwise would have been incurred securing supply at prevailing index/spot market pricing under the Region's Direct Purchase Agreement (for applicable hedged volumes).
- 4.5 For the 2023 fiscal year overall, it is estimated that the Region's natural gas acquisition costs were approximately \$0.221/m³ (weighted average), inclusive of transportation costs for its Ontario landed natural gas including all index and balancing transactions as well as fixed-block purchases. The Region's weighted average cost of gas was comparable to other natural gas pricing options and programs such as:
- Default Enbridge system gas rate as approved by the Ontario Energy Board (2023 estimated simple average of \$0.166/m³, including rate rider adjustments, and \$0.211/m³, including transportation);
 - Local Authority Services (LAS) Natural Gas Program price of \$0.141/m³ (not including transportation and priced at western Canada hub) for the 2022-23

program year and \$0.136/m³ for the 2023-24 program year.² With transportation to Union Dawn ranging between approximately \$0.043/m³ to \$0.05/m³ during 2023, the total all-in cost was estimated to be in the range of \$0.181/m³ and \$0.191/m³ during 2023; and

- Housing Services Corporation (HSC) Bulk Purchase Program (2023 program commodity price of almost \$0.238/m³ plus transportation rate of \$0.069/m³ for total landed price of \$0.31/m³).³

4.6 With supporting market intelligence and analysis as provided by Blackstone Energy Services, Regional staff are kept up-to-date regarding market conditions and proactively secure natural gas supply for Regional accounts where deemed financially beneficial to do so. Any price hedge is incurred primarily to ensure a secure source of supply and cost certainty given supply constraints are more often experienced over the winter heating season.

5. The Region's Current Electricity Consulting Agreement

- 5.1 From February 2021, following award through a competitive bid process (RFP #529-2020), the Region utilized Jupiter Energy to provide strategic electricity procurement and account management services to the Region for a two-year term with the right to extend the contract for an additional one-year term, which the Region exercised. Among the services provided by Jupiter Energy was support and input to annual electricity budgets and forecasts, peak demand monitoring and curtailment notifications, and the development of procurement strategies through obtaining competitive bids for the supply of electricity to the Region's facilities using commodity price hedging agreements, where deemed appropriate.
- 5.2 Effective March 1, 2024, following a competitive bid process (RFP #529-2023) and with the expiry of the prior agreement, the Region has contracted with ECNG Energy Group to provide similar strategic electricity procurement and account management services to the Region for a three-year term with a right to extend the contract for up to two additional one-year terms.
- 5.3 The Region's facilities, including Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant and Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation (DRLHC) properties, are estimated to have consumed almost 195 million kWh of electricity in 2023 (metered and not adjusted for losses), at an estimated total cost of over \$24 million across almost

² The LAS program year starts on November 1st and concludes on October 31st of the following year. Estimates assume transportation to Dawn at OEB-approved Rate 6 transportation rates although LAS may also secure its own transportation component for associated natural gas volumes.

³ Annual HSC program price is a function of term selected at time of program enrolment. Program price above indicative of one year term.

700 individual end-use accounts (including applicable taxes).⁴

The Region's Current Electricity Price Hedging Strategy

- 5.4 There are currently no fixed price hedging arrangements in place for any of the Region's electricity accounts as spot market electricity pricing has not reached a consistent level that would pose a significant risk to the Region.
- 5.5 In addition to facilitating hedges (where required), the Region's electricity advisor also provides services such as strategic advice in account structures, pricing and exiting the Regulated Price Plan (RPP, either tiered or Time-of-Use) and shifts to spot market pricing. While the Region has used such retail billing agent services in prior years, no Regional accounts were enrolled in such services in 2023.
- 5.6 The Region's electricity advisor also provides support for load curtailment events to allow the Region to undertake peak shifting and/or reduction activities during grid-wide high electricity demand peak periods which benefits accounts which are deemed eligible for Class A designation under the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) program with the IESO (generally classified as 1MW average demand or greater). From July 2015 to May 2024 (inclusive), it is estimated that the Region's Class A accounts have avoided over \$36.7 million in Global Adjustment charges as a result of being Class A accounts and reducing peak demand during system-wide peak periods.

6. Potential Variations in Commodity Price Hedge Agreement Payment and Contingent Payment Obligations

- 6.1 Hedging arrangements provide for fixed commodity pricing and the Region only contracts with credit-worthy counterparties which adhere to the requirements of the Region's Commodity Hedging Policy. Given this, there are no reasonably expected variations in the price payment of related contingent payment obligations related to commodity hedge transactions(s).
- 6.2 Given the Region transacts with natural gas suppliers on a regular basis, it has in place active base supply agreements with five (5) natural gas suppliers (Direct Energy, EDF Trading, BP Corporation North America, Suncor Energy and Shell Energy) which ensures a competitive process for all supply transactions. Where possible, Regional staff continues to work with Blackstone for the purposes of onboarding additional credit-worthy counterparties to further enhance competitiveness among the Region's natural gas suppliers.
- 6.3 For electricity-related transactions, while options are often reviewed, the Region does not currently have any active base agreements with any electricity suppliers

⁴ Duffin Creek WPCP consumption and cost values are total for the plant. Duffin Creek WPCP is jointly owned by the Regional Municipality of Durham and the Regional Municipality of York.

although the Region is currently working with its current electricity advisor, ECNG Energy Group, to onboard prequalified electricity suppliers to allow for future transacting, should such market opportunities deem it financially beneficial to do so.

7. Relationship to Strategic Plan

7.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:

- Goal 5.1 Service Excellence – to provide exceptional value to Durham taxpayers through responsive, effective and financially sustainable service delivery.

8. Conclusion

8.1 For the 2023 fiscal year, while there were no hedges in place for the Region's electricity accounts, the Region did enter into a number of fixed price transactions for its natural gas accounts for the purposes of providing enhanced price stability and overall cost certainty during a notably volatile period in natural gas markets which spanned from 2022 and into 2023. While the resultant transacted volumes were secured at a price premium in contrast to the prevailing spot market pricing that may have otherwise been available, the final weighted average cost of transacted natural gas for the year was still within a price range comparable to other natural gas pricing options and programs.

8.2 Regional staff continue to work collaboratively with the Region's respective energy advisors and, with evaluation of market conditions and supporting price and account analysis, will consider opportunities for additional commodity price hedging arrangements, where appropriate and where considered financially beneficial to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By

Nancy Taylor, CPA, CA
Commissioner of Finance



The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Works and Commissioner of Finance
Report: #2024-INFO-69
Date: October 25, 2024

Subject:

Regional Headquarters Workplace Modernization Update

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of the Workplace Modernization Project at the Regional Headquarters.

2. Background

- 2.1 In 2010, the Region engaged NORR Limited to consult with each department at the Regional Headquarters to identify their projected staff growth requirements. This study was intended to quantify the growing space requirements for administrative functions based on the office space standards developed in the early 2000s when the Regional Headquarters was being designed and constructed. The study concluded a space shortfall of 273,000 sq. ft. and proposed options to build an additional building on the site to accommodate the projected growth at an estimated cost of \$152 million in 2025 dollars, plus an estimated \$155 million representing 20-year operating costs.
- 2.2 In 2017 and 2018, the Region completed two small-scale optimization pilots for \$85,000, adopting new office space standards as an alternative approach to address growing space pressures. The pilots followed principles such as utilizing modular furniture systems lower in height to maximize daylight exposure to the open work areas, relocating enclosed offices/meeting rooms/storage space to the building core, and incorporating informal collaborative space for staff. Fewer workstation types proposed in the optimization pilots allowed for a more efficient layout, consuming less floor space and accommodating additional staff. The furniture used for the pilot has been repurposed at other Regional facilities.

- 2.3 In 2019, Regional Council approved the initiative to optimize the current building footprint and ultimately avoid the future expansion of the Regional Headquarters. The scope of work included adopting lessons learned from the pilot project such as reconfiguring workspaces and upgrading furniture to maximize occupancy, improve the wellness of the occupants, and provide natural light to the office environment.
- 2.4 In early 2020, the design consultant, DIALOG, was retained, representatives from each department were interviewed to determine space requirements and develop floor plan layouts and cost estimates. The consultant identified and recommended several activities to maximize the building's footprint, including promoting teleworking (pre-pandemic), digitizing records, using portable technology to support teleworking and policy changes related to societal changes, sustainability, and wellness.
- 2.5 With information gathered through operational interviews and the continuation of a hybrid work model, it was forecasted that the Regional Headquarters would be able to accommodate employees for the next 20+ years and avoid the cost of \$307 million to build and operate a second administrative facility. This projection is based on the current staff count and a 15% growth ratio over ten years based on historical growth data.
- 2.6 Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the Region continues with the hybrid work model where appropriate. This shift towards a shared work model maximizes staff accommodation in the office while allowing for new office space types to better support how staff want to work, such as many different collaboration spaces and improving technology.
- 2.7 The number of workstations was increased by 50-75 additional workstations per floor while reducing the overall square footage of workspaces by 16%, using the new space standard. This has allowed for additional square footage to be allocated to other support spaces, such as meeting rooms (increased by 4%), open collaboration spaces (increased by 7%), and print/storage rooms (increased by 5%).

3. Construction Update

- 3.1 Phase 1 of the workplace modernization was tendered in 2021 (T-1089-2021) and awarded to the lowest compliant bid, Turner Construction. The scope of work included the complete renovation of the 4th and 5th floors to meet the project objectives and address aging infrastructure due for replacement, such as network cabling throughout the building, HVAC controllers, soiled/worn carpet, and LED lighting retrofit. The scope also included the installation of a new passenger elevator as part of accessibility improvements recommended in Price Waterhouse Cooper's (PWC's) 2020 report commissioned by Corporate Services to review public services and the renovation of the washrooms on the floors 1, 4 and 5 to include all-gender washrooms to support the Region's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives. The approved budget for phase 1 was \$22.47 million.

- 3.2 During the construction of Phase 1, several base building deficiencies were identified and recommended to be rectified as part of the workplace modernization construction work to comply with the building code or to improve building operations. These deficiencies included missing fire separation within the main duct shafts, missing fire dampers, lack of all-gender washrooms, missing pipe insulation and main duct sealing, and missing support anchors on perimeter diffusers.
- 3.3 The installation of the missing fire separation within the main duct shafts and the deficient fire dampers was completed at the end of July 2024. Construction of the all-gender washroom will commence on the lower level in late 2024 and be ready for use in fall 2025. The installation of the missing pipe insulation, duct sealing and support anchors on the perimeter diffusers is complete on floors 1, 4 and 5. The deficiencies in the remaining areas will be addressed as construction progresses.
- 3.4 Phase 2 of the project was tendered in 2023 (T-1020-2023) and awarded to the lowest compliant bidder, Govan Brown. The scope of work includes the renovation of floor one and the lower level, addressing aging infrastructure and rectifying known base building deficiencies, the renovation of the washrooms on the lower level to install an all-gender washroom and the renovation work required to relocate front-facing services to floor 1 and the lower level as part of Service Durham. It also includes the installation of turnstiles on floor 1 to limit public access to the main administrative tower as part of security improvements recommended in PWC's 2020 report. Floor 1 will be completed in fall 2024, and the Lower Level will be completed by the end of 2025. The approved budget for this phase is \$22.2 million.
- 3.5 Phase 3 of the workplace modernization project is estimated at \$24 million and includes the renovation of floor 2, floor 3 (excluding DRPS), the Provincial Offences Act (POA) office, floor 1 and the lower level. The final design plan for this phase is 50% complete, however, this phase will not be proceeding at this time except for the completion of floor 3, minor renovations to the POA office to address space concerns, address end of life assets, building deficiencies, and health and safety concerns on floor 3, estimated at \$9.15M. The balance of the Phase 3 work will be revisited in 2027.
- 3.6 With the hybrid work model in place for most employees at Regional Headquarters and ongoing construction, the building is approaching occupancy of 700 people during prime office days.
- 3.7 The building also currently accommodates 94 Service Durham staff, with the Service Durham staff count projected to reach 127 by June 2025. The original scope of the project did not include Service Durham.

4. Project Costs

- 4.1 The projected cost for the Workplace Modernization project, including inflation, modernization, asset management and sustainability initiatives, Service Durham integration, and building deficiencies, is estimated at \$53.82M. To date \$41.12 million has been expended and/or committed to as of October 2024. These costs exclude the building footprint occupied by Durham Region Police Services (DRPS),

the entire 2nd floor and the POA and Legal Services areas on the 1st floor and Lower Level.

Description	Project Costs
Approved Budget	\$44,668,756
Modernization & Optimization	\$20,540,000
Asset Management & Sustainability	\$10,300,000
Service Durham	\$4,860,000
Building deficiencies	\$4,180,000
Contingency	\$4,788,756
Phase 3 estimate:	\$9,150,000
Floor 3	\$8,350,000
POA renovations	\$150,000
Building Deficiencies	\$650,000
Total WMP Budget as of 2025	\$53,818,756

5. Project Financing

- 5.1 The following table details the \$44.67 million in project financing that has been approved to date. As part of the Region's 2025 Business Plans and Budget, additional funding of \$9.15 million will be requested for phase 3 of this project.

Approved Financing

General Tax	\$2,950,358
Capital Project Reserve	22,409,131
Capital Impact Stabilization Reserve Fund	19,290,807
Equipment Reserve	10,000
Save on Energy Rebate	8,460
Total Approved Financing	\$44,668,756
Additional Financing to be requested as part of 2025 Budget	\$9,150,000
Total Projected Financing	\$53,818,756

6. Leased Facilities

- 6.1 There are 43 leased facilities throughout the Region, including 13 for Social Services department and 10 for Durham Region Police Services.
- 6.2 Mayhew Inc. was retained in 2023 to conduct a utilization study of the Social Services and Health leased sites. The optimization study observed the number of staff using the sites and the types of spaces used (workstation, office, meeting room, printer) over a two-week period in June 2023. The study recommended which sites could be better utilized if consolidated with another site and still meet the client demographic. Work is underway to consolidate these sites before the affected leases expire.
- 6.3 As the Regional Headquarters is optimized, the leases will be evaluated as they expire, and services will be relocated to the Regional Headquarters where possible. This will reduce the Region's overall lease footprint and annual leasing costs. However, not all leases can be terminated as some services are located to meet the demographic needs of a community/area.
- 6.4 The facility at 1500 Hopkins is leased to accommodate staff displaced due to the renovations at Regional Headquarters and 101 Consumers Drive. 101 Consumers Drive facility is being renovated to accommodate staff displaced by the expansion of the Whitby Water Supply Plant. The Region has no plans to renew this lease at the end of its term.
- 6.5 Other potential lease savings will be reviewed as leases expire.

7. Relationship to Strategic Plan

7.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:

- a. Goal 5: Service Excellence Goal
- b. Drive organization success through innovation, a skilled workforce and modernized services.

8. Conclusion

8.1 Proceeding with the modernization of the Regional Headquarters will avoid building an additional administrative facility, saving \$307 M, and the potential for additional annual savings where services can be co-located at other regional facilities and reduce the Region's leasing footprint. The project will also address department space constraints, assets at the end of life, base building deficiencies, and workspace ergonomics.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By

Nancy Taylor, BBA, CPA, CA
Commissioner of Finance

Original Signed By

Ramesh Jagannathan, MBA., M.Eng., P.Eng., PTOE
Commissioner of Works

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 3111



The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
Report: #2024-INFO-70
Date: October 25, 2024

Subject:

Program Reports

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide an update on Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) programs and services.

2. Highlights

2.1 DRHD reports for July – September 2024 include the following key highlights:

- a. Health Analytics, Policy & Research – Health Analytics Information Products;
- b. Health Protection – Emergency Management, Food Safety, Healthy Environments, Part 8 Ontario *Building Code* (Sewage Systems) and Safe Water updates;
- c. Healthy Families – Durham Health Connection Line, Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Healthy Families and Infant & Child Development updates;
- d. Healthy Living – Healthy Living, Oral Health and *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* updates;
- e. Infectious Diseases – Immunization and Infectious Diseases Prevention & Control updates; and

- f. Paramedic Services – Administration, Community Paramedicine, Logistics, Operations and Quality & Development updates.
- 2.2 Boards of health are required to “superintend, provide or ensure the provision of the health programs and services required by the [Health Protection and Promotion] Act and the regulations to the persons who reside in the health unit served by the board” (section 4, clause a, HPPA). In addition, medical officers of health are required to “[report] directly to the board of health on issues relating to public health concerns and to public health programs and services under this or any other Act” (sub-section 67.(1), HPPA). Accordingly, the Health Information Update is a component of DRHD’s ‘Accountability Framework’, which also may include program and other reports, Health Plans, Quality Enhancement Plans, Durham Health Check-Ups, business plans and budgets; provincial performance indicators and targets, monitoring, compliance audits and assessments; RDPS certification; and accreditation by Accreditation Canada.

3. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 3.1 This report and the program updates included align with the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
- a. Goal 1 – Environmental Sustainability:
- 1.4 Demonstrate leadership in sustainability and addressing climate change.
- b. Goal 2 – Community Vitality:
- 2.2 Enhance community safety and well-being.
 - 2.3 Influence the social determinants of health to improve outcomes for vulnerable populations.
 - 2.4 Support a high quality of life for all through human services delivery.
- c. Goal 5 – Service Excellence:
- 5.1 Optimize resources and partnerships to deliver exceptional quality services and value.
 - 5.2 Collaborate for seamless service experience.
 - 5.3 Demonstrate commitment to continuous quality improvement and communicating results.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Program Reports are provided to update Regional Council (DRHD's board of health) on public health programs and activities as a component of DRHD's Accountability Framework.

5. Attachment

Program Reports for the period July – September

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

R.J. Kyle, BSc, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC, FACPM
Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health

ABBREVIATIONS

- ACP – Advanced Care Paramedic
- ASST – Active and Sustainable School Travel
- CCC – Childcare Centres
- CP – Community Paramedicine
- DC – Durham College
- DCDSB – Durham Catholic District School Board
- DDSB – Durham District School Board
- DHCL – Durham Health Connection Line
- DoPHS – Diseases of Public Health Significance
- DRHD – Durham Region Health Department
- DRPS – Durham Regional Police Service
- ECCC – Environment and Climate Change Canada
- EDU – Ministry of Education
- FV – Family Visitors
- HART – Health Analytics & Research Team
- HBHC – Healthy Babies Healthy Children
- HCP – Healthcare Provider
- HPD – Health Protection Division
- HPPA – *Health Protection and Promotion Act*
- HSO – Healthy Smiles Ontario
- IPAC – Infection Prevention & Control
- ISPA – *Immunization of School Pupils Act*
- KI – Potassium Iodide
- LD – Lyme Disease
- LH – Lakeridge Health
- LTCH – Long-Term Care Homes

2024 Q3 Program Reports – DRHD

- MECP – Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- MOH – Ontario Ministry of Health
- OAGO – Office of the Auditor General of Ontario
- OBC – Ontario *Building Code*
- OHD – Oral Health Division
- OPHS – *Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability*
- OSDCP – Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program
- OSDUHS – Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey
- PCOP – Primary Care Outreach Program
- PCP – Primary Care Paramedic
- PHD – Population Health Division
- PHI – Public Health Inspectors
- PHN – Public Health Nurse
- PHU – Public Health Units
- PSS – Personal Service Settings
- RDPS – Region of Durham Paramedic Services
- RH – Retirement Homes
- RRFSS – Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System
- SFOA – *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017*
- STBBI – Sexually Transmitted and Blood Borne Infection
- STP – School Travel Plan
- TEO – Tobacco Enforcement Officers
- WNV – West Nile Virus



Health Analytics, Research & Policy

Report for July – September 2024

Health Analytics Information Products

In September, HART released a report titled [Young Adults in Durham Region: Healthy Living Behaviours of Young Adults Ages 18 to 24 in Durham Region](#). The report is focused on healthy living behaviours among young adults. It includes overall measures of health and wellbeing, community belonging, and consumption of alcohol, nicotine, and cannabis.

Key trends among Durham Region young adults include:

- About half (53 per cent) rated their general health as excellent or very good, continuing a slow decline from 62 per cent in 2021.
- Some (29 per cent) rated their mental health as excellent or good, representing a concerning decrease from 41 per cent in 2018 (prior to the COVID-19 pandemic).
- Almost three quarters (72 per cent) rated their sense of belonging to their local community as very or somewhat strong, continuing a long-term trend of slow decline.
- Alcohol is the most commonly consumed substance among young adults in Durham Region, followed by nicotine (vaping/e-cigarettes, or smoking tobacco) and cannabis.
- Almost 80 per cent reported drinking alcohol, almost half (49 per cent) used cannabis, 37 per cent vaped nicotine, and only three per cent smoked cigarettes.
- Prevalence of drinking and using cannabis or vaping nicotine is the highest among young adults compared to any other age group in Durham Region.

This report presents data collected through the RRFSS, which is an ongoing public health telephone survey.

HART maintains the [Durham Region Outbreak Status Report](#), a tool that provides transparency on respiratory and enteric outbreaks in institutional settings including

hospitals, LTCH and RH. It is updated on weekday afternoons, excluding statutory holidays.

This summer, the outbreak status report moved from a static webpage to a dashboard with interactive filtering features. The change in format is part of a larger initiative to modernize data exchange with partners to manage and prevent outbreaks. These data are also used by hospitals, LTCH, and RH to inform decisions for the timing of patient or resident transfers.



Durham Region Outbreak Status Report

Updated October 08, 2024

Active Durham Region Outbreaks in Institutional Settings

Under the *Health Promotion and Protection Act*, Durham Region Health Department is required to respond to reports of suspected and confirmed outbreaks of gastroenteritis and respiratory illness in institutional settings. The Health Department helps places such as hospitals, long-term care homes and retirement homes manage and prevent outbreaks.

Name of Facility	Type of Facility	Address	Units Affected	Type of Outbreak	Causative Organism	Declared Date	Outbreak Classification
AgeCare Samac	Long Term Care Home	451 Woodmount Drive Oshawa L1G 8E3	Mclaughlin Bay	Respiratory	COVID-19	02-Oct-24	Confirmed
AgeCare Samac	Long Term Care Home	451 Woodmount Drive Oshawa L1G 8E3	Lynde Creek	Respiratory	Parainfluenza Virus	03-Oct-24	Confirmed
Aspira Douglas Crossing	Retirement Home	6 Douglas Road Uxbridge L9P 1S9	6th Floor	Respiratory	COVID-19	07-Oct-24	Confirmed
Bay Ridges	Long Term Care Home	900 Sandy Beach Road Pickering L1W 1Z4	Mitchell Park Unit	Respiratory	COVID-19	24-Sep-24	Confirmed
Bay Ridges	Long Term Care Home	900 Sandy Beach Road Pickering L1W 1Z4	Sandy Beach	Respiratory	Enterovirus	25-Sep-24	Confirmed
Extendicare Oshawa	Long Term Care Home	82 Park Road North Oshawa L1J 4L1	Facility Wide	Respiratory	COVID-19	28-Sep-24	Confirmed
Fairview Lodge	Long Term Care Home	632 Dundas Street West Whitby L1N 5S3	Marigold Lane	Respiratory	Respiratory Infection Unspecified	08-Oct-24	Confirmed
Glen Hill Terrace	Long Term Care Home	80 Glen Hill Drive South Whitby L1N 0M7	3-South	Respiratory	COVID-19	23-Sep-24	Confirmed
Harmony Hill	Retirement Home	1335 Benson Street Oshawa L1K 0W6	Orchard	Respiratory	COVID-19	05-Oct-24	Confirmed
Lakeridge Gardens	Long Term Care Home	680 Harwood Avenue South Ajax L1S 2J4	3W	Respiratory	COVID-19	04-Oct-24	Confirmed
Ontario Shores	Hospital	700 Gordon Street	Geriatric	Respiratory	Respiratory	07-Oct-24	Confirmed

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

R.J. Kyle, BSc, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC, FACPM
Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health



Report for July – September 2024

Emergency Management

The [Emergency Management Guideline, 2024](#) highlights the importance of developing and conducting emergency exercises. These activities help staff stay prepared and ready to handle emergencies effectively. In August, HPD ran a respiratory planning exercise to help DRHD prepare for the expected respiratory surge in the fall. The planning exercise was built on key lessons learned and supported readiness for future outbreaks. DRHD shared a summary of the exercise with the MOH.

Potassium Iodide Tablet Program

September marked DRHD's third and final KI communication campaign this year. The campaign aimed to encourage residents to get their supply of KI tablets and increase awareness of their availability. A media release and a series of social media posts were rolled out over four weeks. Additionally, an article was featured in the Wee Care newsletter, specifically promoting KI tablets to childcare centres in Durham Region.

KI tablets were restocked at all designated pharmacies within Durham Region.

Food Safety

Staff worked diligently to complete food safety inspections as per the [Food Safety Protocol, 2019](#). Between July and September, staff completed **589** high-risk inspections, **701** moderate-risk inspections, and **196** low-risk inspections. Staff also completed **226** re-inspections, and **34** inspections/re-inspections were generated by complaints. Staff is on track to complete 100 per cent of required inspections in the last round for all high-, moderate-, and low-risk inspections. Staff achieved 100 per cent completion of high-risk premises.

Staff processed **93** new special events and farmers' market co-ordinator applications and had **196** new special event vendor applications. Staff inspected **15** special events that were deemed higher-risk and **11** farmers' markets using the risk assessment tool and updated special events procedure.

Staff responded to **578** questions about food safety on the DHCL line, out of **1,586** total calls.

A vlog on home canning was filmed in April to address the increased number of inquiries about safe canning processes. The completed vlog was uploaded to YouTube in August and has been viewed **223** times during the six-week period that it was available.

Continuing to return to health promotion activities, PHIs attended **three** fall fairs in September (including Port Perry, Orono, and Uxbridge) and participated in a total of **seven** days of health promotion and public health advocacy.

Healthy Environments

Climate Change and Health in Durham Region

As part of DRHD's mandate under the [Healthy Environments and Climate Change Guideline, 2018](#), DRHD conducts health vulnerability assessments related to climate change. In August and September, DRHD released its first two reports in a special series titled Climate Change and Health in Durham Region, available at durham.ca/ClimateAndHealth.

The first report, titled [Understanding the Local Health Impacts of Climate Change](#), was released in August and is an essential background primer that explores:

- Current and future health impacts of climate hazards.
- Key factors for assessing climate vulnerability.
- Why some people face greater health risks than others from the impacts of climate change.

The report emphasizes the importance of an equity-focused approach when assessing and addressing climate vulnerabilities and identifies local environmental and community features that can affect health.

The second report in the series, titled [Assessing the Impact of Extreme Heat](#), was released in September. It explores current and future health impacts of extreme heat in Durham Region with a special focus on health equity and prioritizing those who may be worst affected and least protected.

Both reports were promoted through a news release, social media, and a broad communications campaign. Key findings will also be shared through presentations to Regional departments, committees, and local community partners.

Heat Warning & Information System

This summer was slightly cooler than originally forecasted by ECCC. **Four** heat warnings and **one** extended heat warning were issued with a total of **11** days of heat warning criteria being met.

Heat warnings are issued when the forecast conditions include a daytime high of 31°C and overnight temperatures of 20°C or greater, or with humidex values of at least 40 for two or more consecutive days. Advanced notice of heat warnings is shared with over 500 community partners such as recreation centres, LTCH, school boards and other agencies serving at-risk populations so they can activate heat response plans to minimize heat exposure. Warnings are shared with the public through DRHD's website and social media platforms. Staff also updated DRHD's extreme heat webpage and a [Heat Hacks for Keeping Cool](#) infographic to provide at-home tips for residents without access to cool spaces.

Part 8 Ontario *Building Code* (Sewage Systems)

From July to September 2024, the HPD conducted the following activities related to Part 8 of the OBC: received **78** building permit applications for sewage systems, processed **18** building addition applications and reviewed **44** planning applications, investigated **six** complaints related to private sewage systems and issued **one** Order to comply, conducted **162** inspections related to sewage system building permits and installations, attended or provided comments for **12** pre-consultation meetings and responded to questions from the public and sewage system installers regarding sewage systems and planning applications.

The 2024 Lake Simcoe Maintenance Inspection program continued in July and there were **61** inspections completed in Brock, **87** inspections completed in Uxbridge, and **92** in Scugog.

Safe Water

Bathing Beach Monitoring Program

In accordance with the [Operational Approaches for Recreational Water Guideline, 2018](#), and the [Recreation Water Protocol, 2019](#), from June to August, HPD assessed environmental conditions and collected water samples each week from Durham's **14** public beaches. This program ensures beaches are safe for swimming. Beach posting results were uploaded each week to DRHD's [Beaches webpage](#), [Check & Go Disclosure Portal](#), and shared via DRHD's social media channels. The program included monitoring for bacteriological contamination, blue-green algae, and other potential hazards. Staff issued **46** beach postings, along with **one** advisory for blue-green algae. DRHD is responsible for responding to reports of blue-green algae beyond the regular beach monitoring season, as needed.

Drinking Water

On August 1, the OAGO requested additional information from all local PHU as part of its continued investigation into non-municipal drinking water, including small drinking water systems and private well water. The audit request asked questions about short-term rentals, PHI certification processes, small drinking water systems operator training,

and drinking water advisories. HPD staff completed the OAGO request by the August deadline.

DRHD continues to promote HPD's free private well water testing services through social media and the [Private Wells webpage](#). Messaging includes information on free well water testing, interpretation of sample results, information on where residents can pick up and drop off water samples, and other related topics. In response to recent inquiries, DRHD strengthened the well water testing communication strategy. HPD staff is working on a paid promotion strategy to boost the reach of its social media posts.

In September, HPD staff attended an information session on the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network Program and Exceedance Protocol. This session was delivered by the MECP and was intended for all Ontario PHU. The information session discussed the program and protocol, which uses wells run by the MECP to monitor provincial groundwater supplies. The wells are used to:

- Track the state of ambient groundwater quality and quantity through monitoring hourly groundwater levels in approximately 480 wells across Ontario.
- Identify trends over time and correlations with key factors that influence groundwater conditions.

Recreational Water

HPD completed all mandatory recreational water inspections as required by the MOH in accordance with the [Recreational Water Protocol, 2019](#). To date, HPD has completed **467** routine recreational water inspections and issued **43** Section 13 Orders under the [HPPA](#) to close the facility due to the presence of health hazards.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Anthony Di Pietro

Director, Health Protection Division



Healthy Families

Report for July – September 2024

Durham Health Connection Line

DHCL provides access to public health information to the community. PHNs provide assessment, health education, counselling, and referrals to community services for residents or those looking for services in Durham Region. Inquiries are addressed on the telephone or through email. From July to September, DHCL responded to **3,153** inquiries.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

Approximately 60 per cent of Ontario families have risk factors that can negatively impact healthy development in children. These risk factors include but are not limited to financial instability, lack of social supports, being new to the country, depression, anxiety or other mental illness, substance use/misuse, involvement with child protective services and lack of a primary HCP. According to the BORN Information System, more than 16 per cent of families in Ontario have greater than five risk factors. Without intervention for these families, these children are at risk for poor attachment, emotional and behavioural challenges, and eventually physical and mental health issues.

The HBHC program is a voluntary home visiting program to support families with identified risk factors from the prenatal period up until school entry. PHNs and FV work in partnership with at-risk families to provide supportive intervention, and to identify and address goals to promote optimal child development and positive parenting.

The first step in referral to the HBHC program is screening. Families may self-refer for screening by a PHN or can be screened by their HCP. As part of the HBHC program, PHNs provide support to HCPs at local hospitals and midwifery practices to complete the HBHC screen with their patients. PHNs visit hospitals two to three times per week to promote and support screening and to raise awareness among new parents of DRHD services available to them as they transition home with their new baby. HBHC managers also meet bi-monthly with LH managers to facilitate communication and collaboration with the aim of increasing screening rates.

Between July 1 and September 30, PHNs made **54** visits to local hospitals and midwifery practices. Screening was administered to **908** families and of those, **504 (56 per cent)** screened with risk for compromised parenting and/or child development. PHNs were able to reach **316 (63 per cent)** of the with-risk clients by telephone to offer an in-depth assessment at home. Staff sent a mailout to those not reached by phone inviting them to call back. Of those clients reached by phone, **151 (48 per cent)** accepted this offer. In depth assessments were completed with **120 (80 per cent)** clients, and of those, **95 (79 per cent)** were confirmed with risk and offered referral to the blended home visiting program. Between July 1 and September 30, there were **259** families actively participating in the blended home visiting program, of which **42** were newly enrolled.

Healthy Families

Pregnancy can be a time when expectant families are motivated to improve their overall health. With the health of the baby in mind, many expectant families search for credible information on having a healthy pregnancy. The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada encourages expectant families to take prenatal classes. DRHD launched free online prenatal classes in 2019 to promote access to evidence-based health information during pregnancy. From July to September, **305** new users accessed the classes. Prenatal classes have recently been updated and are now available in **seven** additional languages including: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese and Spanish.

The classes cover many key prenatal health education topics such as preterm labour, nutrition and exercise, substance use, mental health, intimate partner violence, caring for a newborn, how to get a good start with breastfeeding, and newborn safety. To promote the online prenatal classes this year, DRHD made **five** social media posts on DRHD platforms. Community partners also helped to promote the online prenatal classes to priority populations.

This year, an evaluation report was completed for the online prenatal classes held during the period of 2019 to 2023. The evaluation results indicated that all classes were effective in improving confidence, knowledge, and awareness. Key highlights from the evaluation report showed that before taking the class, only **29** per cent of respondents reported that they could tell if their baby was breastfeeding well. After the class, this percentage significantly increased to **99** per cent. Confidence in giving birth rose from **45** per cent prior to taking the class to **85** per cent afterwards. Participants reported improvement in their confidence to follow the recommended prenatal nutrition and exercise guidelines from **70** per cent before the class to **94** per cent after the class. Respondents' confidence in caring for their new baby when they arrive at home also saw a substantial increase after attending the class from **44** per cent to **92** per cent. Comments from the evaluation indicated that participants appreciated the online option to learn at their own pace and that the classes address equity and access issues such

as transportation, language barriers, medical concerns, and inability to attend in person due to scheduling conflicts. Offering free online prenatal classes to residents facilitates access to evidence-based prenatal information and promotes healthy behaviours during pregnancy.

Infant & Child Development

The ICD program is a voluntary service that partners with families to promote the healthy growth and development of children between the ages of birth to school entry and who have a developmental concern. Local residents can self-refer to the program or be referred by a service provider. ICD consultants partner with families to plan developmental intervention goals and establish ways to achieve these goals within the child's routines using a family-centered, strengths-based approach.

Between July to September, the ICD program offered service to approximately **456** children and provided approximately **951** appointments to support modeling, parent coaching, and family education.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Kavine Thangaraj
Director, Population Health Division
Chief Nursing Officer



Healthy Living

Report for July – September 2024

Healthy Living

Active Sustainable School Travel (ASST)

The Canadian [24-Hour Movement Guidelines](#) for children and youth ages five to 17 recommends at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per day. Despite these recommendations, 2024 data from Participaction reported only **39 per cent** of children and youth (aged five to 17) in Canada met the recommended amount of daily physical activity. According to local data from [OSDUHS](#), in 2017 only **36 per cent** of local elementary school students used active transportation to get to school, further limiting their opportunities to achieve physical activity recommendations. Furthermore, in Durham Region, **49 per cent** of secondary school students travel to school by car, either as a driver or passenger.

DRHD promotes ASST to encourage school-aged children and youth to meet daily physical activity goals. ASST promotion activities also aim to reduce traffic congestion to create safer and healthier school zones. Reducing the number of cars in school zones improves safety and reduces pollution, which is associated with risks of lung disease, cardiovascular diseases, and may also adversely impact cognitive development.

As part of a health education strategy, DRHD developed and promoted a [Let's Walk and Wheel Resource](#) to all **231** schools in Durham (**186** elementary schools, **42** secondary schools, and **3 private schools**). This resource promotes the benefits of active travel and provides practical ideas for how school communities can incorporate it in their Comprehensive School Health plans.

In collaboration with the Region's Planning, Economic Development & Tourism Department, DRHD supported **five** elementary schools in implementing a new active school travel plan as part of the School Travel Planning Project. This project brings together schools and community partners to address transportation problems and increase active modes of travel. Community partners included representatives from the

DDSB, DCDSB, regional and municipal planning and economic development departments, and DRPS. Community partners participated in school community walkabouts to assess safety, traffic patterns, and school environmental factors with the aim of improving traffic volume and students' safety. DRHD continues to promote and support ASST initiatives in all school communities in collaboration with community partners.

Additionally, DRHD promoted Winter Walk Day, Bike to School Week, and International Walk to School Month, incorporating provincial resources from [Ontario Active School Travel](#). Other strategies to promote ASST also included **12** social media posts that were published on all DRHD platforms. These social media posts resulted in **360** engagements and **26,780** impressions.

Oral Health

For 2024, OHD noted the following achievements, demonstrating a commitment to improving oral health outcomes and delivering exceptional services to the community.

Comprehensive Dental Services: OHD served over **4,402** unique clients. The DRHD Dental Clinic provided services to **534** HSO clients and **3,587** OSDCP clients through **5,489** appointments. Delivery of dental care services in Durham Region's four LTCH is on hold at this time, but it is anticipated that this will resume in early 2025. The Brock Community Health Centre project has been postponed until spring 2025, but preparations have been started with various partners.

Dental Benefits Claims: OHD processed **987** dental benefit claims between July and September, amounting to **\$224,917** in fees paid. These efforts facilitate the smooth provision of dental care and ensure financial support for those in need.

Dental Estimates: OHD received **490** estimates and entered **328** that were eligible to be processed for approval.

Dental Care Needs: OHD identified **2,196** children with urgent dental needs and **2,334** children with non-urgent dental needs.

Denture Lab: Denturists delivered over **235** services in the Dental Clinic's denture lab.

Oral Health Education and Promotion: OHD visited **10** daycare facilities. Staff provided dental screening to **235** children and oral health education to **355** children.

Social Media Engagement: To reach a wider audience, OHD effectively utilized social media platforms to promote oral health information and program updates. OHD reached **149,777** individuals, achieved **183,632** impressions and **3,854** engagements on Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly known as Twitter).

These accomplishments reflect OHD's dedication to improving oral health outcomes and its commitment to education and collaboration. By leveraging resources effectively, DRHD continues to make a positive impact on the oral health of residents.

Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017

TEO continued to conduct youth test shopping inspections on vendors that sell tobacco and vapour products. Operators and owners of stores selling these products can be charged with selling or supplying tobacco or vapour products to a person who is less than 19 years old. Two or more tobacco related convictions may lead to an Automatic Prohibition, issued by the MOH, where the vendor is prohibited from selling tobacco products for a minimum of six months.

TEO respond to all complaints received with respect to smoking or vaping in all enclosed workplaces and other prohibited areas included in the [SFOA](#) and the Durham Region [Smoking and Vaping By-law #28-2019](#). These areas include multi-unit dwellings, schools, hospitals, outdoor recreation playground areas, hookah lounges, etc.

From July to September, TEO conducted **166** youth test shopper inspections for vapour products and **10** display and promotion inspections. In total, **11** charges were issued for supplying vapour products to minors under the SFOA and **10** charges were issued for stores selling improperly packaged vapour products. TEO continue to observe non-compliance with stores selling high levels of nicotine in vapour products and flavours, resulting in **two** seizures of these products at store locations.

TEO conducted **347** youth test shopper inspections for tobacco products and **25** compliance inspections for display and promotion for tobacco retailers. In total, TEO issued **11** charges for tobacco related offences.

TEO conducted **17** inspections in enclosed workplaces and other prohibited areas.

TEO respond to complaints regarding students vaping on school property. From July to September, TEO investigated **12** complaints, issued **one** warning letter, and served **one** charge to a student vaping on school property.

DRHD's Smoke-Free Enforcement Coordinator and the TEO are working with DDSB and DCDSB in collaboration with PHD to support the implementation of [Policy/Program Memorandum 128](#) with respect to enforcement relating to electronic cigarettes, recreational cannabis, and tobacco in schools. Joint visits will be scheduled to provide information and support to all local secondary schools.

Specialty vape stores and tobacconist stores continue to operate in Durham Region. As of September 30, there are 70 registered specialty vape stores and four tobacconist stores.

2024 Q3 Program Reports – DRHD

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Anthony Di Pietro
Director, Health Protection Division

Original signed by

Maryam Pezeshki
Director, Oral Health Division

Original signed by

Kavine Thangaraj
Director, Population Health Division
Chief Nursing Officer



Infectious Diseases

Report for July – September 2024

Immunization

In accordance with the OPHS, DRHD promotes and provides provincially funded immunization programs and services to eligible persons, including underserved and priority populations, to reduce or eliminate the burden of vaccine preventable diseases.

DRHD is required to enforce ISPA and assess the immunization status of students attending schools in Durham. The purpose of ISPA is to increase protection of students attending public and private schools in Ontario against the following diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, meningococcal and varicella. Parents/guardians are required to follow the provincial [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule](#) to ensure their children are up to date on immunizations. If students are unable to be immunized or parents/guardians choose to exempt their children from required immunizations, a medical exemption or statement of conscience or religious belief form must be filed with the DRHD.

For the 2023 to 2024 school year, ISPA was enforced with elementary students in Grades 2, 5 and 6 and all secondary students. DRHD sent first notices to all elementary and secondary students which explained ISPA and the role of the parent/guardian in complying with it. DRHD sent second notices and suspension orders to elementary students in Grades 2, 5 and 6 and all secondary students who remained overdue for ISPA required vaccines. A total of **45,675** first notices were sent to elementary and secondary students. Second notices and suspension orders were sent to **6,308** elementary students in Grades 2, 5 and 6 and **10,885** secondary students.

As a result of ISPA enforcement, **1,520** secondary students were suspended as they remained overdue for vaccines with **1,425** secondary students returning to school prior to the end of the suspension period. For elementary schools, **857** students were suspended with **831** elementary students returning to school prior to the end of the suspension period.

Infectious Diseases Prevention & Control

Childcare Centres

From July to September, HPD completed **163** inspections in CCC, **45** childcare environmental inspections and **117** childcare kitchen inspections.

In July, DRHD launched a survey to CCC regarding staff knowledge of the childcare IPAC online learning course. The survey is still open to encourage more responses and will close soon. The childcare IPAC course will be updated with the addition of pretest questions to evaluate the knowledge gained and the effectiveness of the course.

In August, a meeting was held with EDU to clarify DRHD's role regarding referral complaints and inspection requests of licensed CCC and licensed home CCC. Clarity was provided on the collaboration between DRHD and EDU.

Diseases of Public Health Significance

In accordance with the OPHS and [O. Reg. 135/18: Designation of Diseases](#), HPD is responsible for the management of cases and contacts of DoPHS.

From July to September, **273** DoPHS were reported to HPD. The number of reported cases per DoPHS type is listed in descending order: LD (**94**), campylobacter (**57**), salmonellosis (**34**), influenza (**16**), giardiasis (**14**), cyclosporiasis (**11**), cryptosporidiosis (**eight**), legionella (**five**), amebiasis (**three**), carbapenemase-producing enterobacteriaceae (**three**), listeriosis (**three**), anaplasmosis (**two**), shigellosis (**two**), WNV (**two**), yersiniosis (**two**), blastomycosis (**one**), botulism (**one**), paratyphoid fever (**one**), Q fever (**one**), typhoid fever (**one**), and verotoxin producing *E. coli* (**one**).

Infection Prevention and Control Lapses

From July to September, staff investigated **15** IPAC lapses. Of those investigations, **seven** were confirmed IPAC lapses and were posted, with **five** for PSS and **two** for health facilities. **Six out of seven** of DRHD's clinics were audited with minor or no IPAC issues.

Outbreak Summary

Outbreaks are investigated in accordance with the OPHS.

From July to September, staff investigated **99** outbreaks. Of these, **68** were COVID-19 outbreaks (**25** LTCH, **27** RH, **nine** hospitals, and **seven** congregate living settings). The other **31** outbreaks were respiratory (**19**) and enteric (**12**). The number of respiratory outbreaks by type of facility is: **10** in LTCH, **four** in RH, **two** in hospitals, **two** group homes, **one** shelter. The number of enteric outbreaks by type of facility is: **11** enteric in CCC and **one** in LTCH. Some confirmed causative agents identified included: coronavirus (non-COVID-19), enterovirus, influenza A, metapneumovirus, norovirus, parainfluenza, rhinovirus, respiratory syncytial virus, and rotavirus.

Personal Services Settings

From July to September, **185** inspections were completed in PSS. For PSS, common infractions included improper cleaning and disinfection, single-use items not discarded after use, items not stored and maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, and not preparing and using the approved disinfectants appropriately. New devices and services being offered continue to involve more staff resources. DRHD issued **one** charge for repeat violations of the PSS regulation. There were **four** Section 13 orders issued under the [HPPA](#) for no water and no dedicated handwashing and reprocessing sinks at the facility and unapproved devices found at the facility.

[The Beyond Glam Newsletter Fall/Winter 2024](#) was sent to PSS owners and operators in September. The newsletter focused on trending services, current events, and common issues within the PSS community.

Rabies Prevention and Control

From July to September, DRHD investigated **522** animal bite reports, which is an increase from **439** reports investigated for the same time period in 2023. DRHD also provided **77** residents with anti-rabies treatment, an increase from **69** for this period in 2023. DRHD submitted **20** animals involved in a human exposure for testing and **four** were positive for rabies, all in bats. **Two** other bats tested by other agencies with no human exposure also tested positive. Due to so many positive bats and the recent human case of rabies in Brant County, increased social media posts were delivered this summer to educate the public and to encourage reporting when a human is exposed.

Two charges were issued to animal owners for failing to immunize their pet against rabies, pursuant to the [Reg. 567: Rabies Immunization](#).

The Monday Night Project

In August, DRHD joined the Monday Night Project, a program spearheaded by Durham Region's Social Services Department and DRPS. Nursing support is provided bi-weekly through this community partnership which aims to create a safe space for women who have experienced or are at-risk of sex trafficking. Most women who attend on a regular basis are unsheltered and experience multiple barriers to accessing supports and services. Community partners come together at a location in downtown Oshawa to support clients. PHNs offer safe sex counseling, education, HIV and pregnancy point-of-care testing, contraceptives, vaccine administration, STBBI testing and treatment. Since August 12, PHNs have supported **eight** clients with STBBI testing, vaccination, counseling, education and contraception distribution.

Vector-Borne Diseases

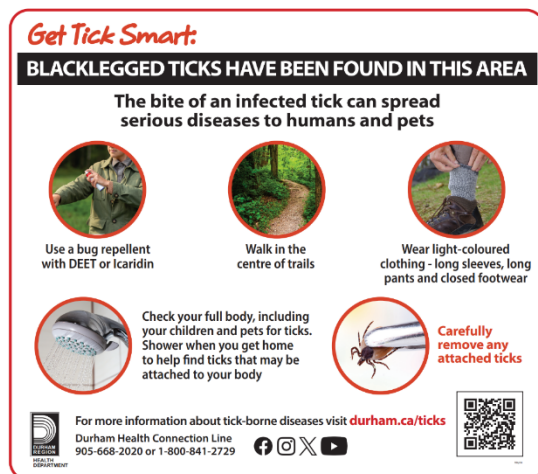
The WNV prevention and control program began its seasonal activities in May and concluded in September. The program included weekly surveillance of potential breeding sites for WNV vector mosquitoes, which yielded **5,886** site visits resulting in **684** larvicide treatments. The first round of scheduled roadside catch basin larviciding

occurred on June 14 and the fourth and final round on August 27. A total of **258,427** roadside catch basin treatments were administered. In addition, **93** private back yard catch basins and **440** catch basins on Regionally owned properties were treated. DRHD investigated **37** complaints of stagnant water on private property and **14** treatments were required. The adult mosquito trapping activity has resulted in **31,016** mosquitoes being captured, **240** pools of mosquitoes tested, and the identification of **13** positive mosquito trap sites in Ajax, Clarington, Oshawa, Pickering and Whitby. So far this year, there have been **two** human cases of WNV reported to DRHD compared to **11** cases at this time last year.

DRHD continues to promote eTick.ca which is a free online service where professionals identify ticks using photographs sent in by members of the public. Durham Region residents can have ticks identified by submitting a photo to this website.

This year, a total of **123** human tick-borne diseases have been probable or confirmed involving residents, including **120** LD and **three** anaplasmosis cases. This is up from **103** reported at this time last year. Communication was distributed to partners throughout the season, including regular media releases, a variety of social media messages on various platforms, and a weekly summary report of WNV mosquito testing posted on durham.ca/westnile.

DRHD provided **292** tick awareness signs to municipalities and community partners to be installed at the entrances of public outdoor recreation spaces. The sign advises members of the public to keep safe when outdoors and includes a QR code linking to durham.ca/ticks for more information.



2024 Q3 Program Reports – DRHD

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Kavine Thangaraj
Director, Population Health Division
Chief Nursing Officer

Original signed by

Anthony Di Pietro
Director, Health Protection Division



Report for July – September 2024

Administration

From July to October, some administration activities included:

- Completed the second phase of hiring for a full-time Program Assistant position.
- Provided staff with developmental opportunities in Community Paramedicine, External Violence Against Paramedics, Continuing Medical Education and in-house continuing education.

Community Paramedicine

In September, RDPS launched a LTCH and diagnostic testing project where four Community Paramedics support select LTCH with diagnostic testing services to prevent unnecessary transports to the Emergency Department for diagnostics.

RDPS is expanding its relief pool for the CP team. Staff is completing ongoing education with McMaster University and DC.

RDPS continues to operate monthly [CP@clinics](#) to provide older adults with chronic disease prevention services. The clinic dates and locations are listed below:

- 155 King Street East, Oshawa (first Wednesday of every month)
- 1880 Valley Farm Road (second Tuesday of every month)
- 1890 Valley Farm Road (third Thursday of every month)

RDPS's full-time CP team continues to book **two** initial visits per day and responds to an average of **three** exacerbations per day preventing 911 utilization. Services include follow-up visits, phone calls, wellness checks, congestive heart failure IV Lasix calls from LH, and responding to remote patient monitoring alerts. The team currently has **120** patients on remote patient monitoring, which helps the team catch an exacerbation of congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or diabetes before it occurs.

The PCOP team has been supporting opioid withdrawal management with the addition of oral Suboxone. Staff will complete the Clinical Opioid Withdrawal Score, then connect with an addictions physician to administer Suboxone.

Logistics

RDPS deployed **three** new and fully upfitted Chevy Tahoe command vehicles as replacements in the fleet. The vehicles included upgrades to the emergency lighting and sound package, decal package, and interior storage design.

RDPS purchased and started receiving new Stryker Power-LOADs and stretchers as part of the 2024 capital purchase. Existing equipment nearing the end of its operational cycle will be removed from service and replaced with newly commissioned units.

RDPS received and is currently commissioning **two** ambulances from Demers Ambulances, as part of the 2023 capital purchase. The ambulances are being delivered on a staggered schedule, with **five** more ambulances scheduled for delivery before the end of 2024.

Operations

RDPS performed the following operational activities from July to September:

- Onboarded **two** Acting Superintendents – Joseph Barrett and Brock Bodashefsky.
- Assembled a working group to develop a deployment plan for the new Medical Priority Dispatch System to prioritize call response more accurately.
- Put **16** newly certified ACP on the road.
- Completed the selection process for **16** students to go through ACP training in September.
- Engaged in the bargaining process with CUPE 1764.
- Completed *Personal Health Information Protection Act* training with Superintendents, as provided by DRHD's Privacy and Security team.

Quality & Development

RDPS finalized planning for an in-house training program called External Violence against Paramedics, which will be delivered this fall. The purpose is to help prevent violence against paramedics.

In addition, staff performed the following quality and development activities:

- Completed Ambulance Call Report reviews on all new probationary employees.
- Conducted three-month probationary reviews with **47** employees.
- Facilitated Return to Practice education for **seven** paramedics returning from extended Leaves of Absence.
- Developed educational content for the Fall 2024 Central East session.

2024 Q3 Program Reports – DRHD

- Attended **28** community outreach events.
- Successfully recruited **one** temporary Quality & Development Facilitator.
- Monitored field placement for **15** PCP students from DC.
- Rostered over **106** clients with Home and Community Care for the Palliative Treat and Refer program.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Troy Cheseboro
Chief/Director



Interoffice Memorandum

Date: October 25, 2024

To: Health & Social Services Committee

From: Dr. Robert Kyle

Subject: Health Information Update – October 19, 2024

Health
Department

Please find attached the latest links to health information from the Health Department and other key sources that you may find of interest. Links may need to be copied and pasted directly in your web browser to open, including the link below.

You may also wish to browse the online Health Department Reference Manual available at [Board of Health Manual](#), which is continually updated.

Boards of health are required to “superintend, provide or ensure the provision of the health programs and services required by the [Health Protection and Promotion] Act and the regulations to the persons who reside in the health unit served by the board” (section 4, clause a, HPPA). In addition, medical officers of health are required to “[report] directly to the board of health on issues relating to public health concerns and to public health programs and services under this or any other Act” (sub-section 67.(1), HPPA).

Accordingly, the Health Information Update is a component of the Health Department’s ‘Accountability Framework’, which also may include program and other reports, Health Plans, Quality Enhancement Plans, Durham Health Check-Ups, business plans and budgets; provincial performance indicators and targets, monitoring, compliance audits and assessments; RDPS certification; and accreditation by Accreditation Canada.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

R.J. Kyle, BSc, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC, FACPM
Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health

*“Service Excellence
for our Communities*

UPDATES FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
October 19, 2024

Health Department Media Releases/Publications

tinyurl.com/ztwvvyky8

- Influenza Vaccine Available for High-Risk Groups Only (Oct 2)

tinyurl.com/3f2rwj3e

- *Echinococcus Multilocularis* in Durham Region (Oct 8)

tinyurl.com/57ccsrh

- Vector-borne diseases in Durham Region (Oct 8)

tinyurl.com/2vbux79h

- Referral to the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program (Oct 9)

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Clean Water Agency

tinyurl.com/36bed328

- Canada strengthens protection of freshwater with launch of standalone Canada Water Agency (Oct 16)

Health Canada

tinyurl.com/5n7vad74

- Health Canada invests \$12.29 million in prevention and treatment of cancer for firefighters (Oct 7)

tinyurl.com/3js5dytx

- Message from the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health – World Mental Health Day (Oct 10)

tinyurl.com/39xbpb79

- Government of Canada Passes Legislation for a First Phase of National Universal Pharmacare (Oct 10)

tinyurl.com/4n7k4che

- Government of Canada supporting solutions and rapid responses to the substance use and overdose crises (Oct 11)

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

tinyurl.com/4hjcesx

- Statement from Minister Champagne and Minister Holland on the release of the engagement report on modernizing Canada's research support system (Oct 16)

Prime Minister's Office

tinyurl.com/y4ytawws

- Statement by the Prime Minister on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (Oct 17)

Public Health Agency of Canada

tinyurl.com/2s3hmr4j

- Launch of the External Expert Review of the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care (Oct 9)

tinyurl.com/t22yw52z

- Message from the Minister of Health and Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health – Breast Cancer Awareness Month, October 2024 (Oct 9)

tinyurl.com/53v5nwjn

- Canada's Minister of Health concludes discussions at the G7 Health Ministers' Meeting in Italy (Oct 11)

tinyurl.com/4az894xz

- Message from the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health – Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day (Oct 15)

Transport Canada

tinyurl.com/3w7cc54b

- Government of Canada announces support to keep Canadians safe near railway crossings (Oct 11)

GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

Ministry of Energy and Electrification

tinyurl.com/yj8akuam

- Ontario Supports Continued Safe Operation of Pickering Nuclear Generating Station (Oct 11)

Ministry of Health

tinyurl.com/mttmepa9

- Ontario Expanding Access to Mental Health Services (Oct 7)

tinyurl.com/muk7x9rv

- Ontario Connecting One Million More Women to Life-Saving Breast Cancer Screening (Oct 8)

tinyurl.com/25cdekek

- Ontario Celebrates Completion of Sunnybrook's New Centre for Brain Science and Mental Health Care (Oct 17)

Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement

tinyurl.com/4pyv9m83

- Ontario Supporting Grieving Families and Stillborn Children (Oct 15)

Premier's Office

tinyurl.com/48e82rux

- Ontario Launches Next Phase of Life Sciences Strategy (Oct 15)

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Breast Cancer Canada

tinyurl.com/3wr9z9pu

- Canada's Top Breast Cancer Experts Unite to Elevate National Standards in Care (Oct 8)

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

tinyurl.com/298ke3wc

- Government of Canada renews historic funding for Indigenous health research from coast to coast (Oct 9)

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

tinyurl.com/5d96vv32

- Commission authorizes Ontario Power Generation Inc. to operate Pickering Nuclear Generating Stations Units 5 to 8 until December 31, 2026 (Oct 11)

Canadian Partnership Against Cancer

tinyurl.com/4mprtv9j

- Cervical and lung cancer screening programs expanding and innovating across Canada, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer's new reports show (Oct 16)

Heart and Stroke Foundation

tinyurl.com/cbxybxsm

- Heart & Stroke cheers federal government's historic victory with passage of Canada's first national pharmacare legislation (Oct 10)

Ontario Hospital Association

tinyurl.com/3r3383se

- Millions More Ontarians Will Live with Major Illness by 2040 (Oct 16)

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario

tinyurl.com/4rdk8arb

- Nurses celebrate passage of national pharmacare legislation: urge Canadians to stay vigilant for a fully comprehensive pharmacare program (Oct 10)

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada

tinyurl.com/33zrs9tb

- SOGC Celebrates Passage of Pharmacare Bill: A Victory for Canadian Woman's Health (Oct 11)

tinyurl.com/4x7njkfj

- SOGC Calls for Better Stillbirth Data on Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Days (Oct 15)

World Health Organization

tinyurl.com/5ks8vxsf

- Better use of vaccines could reduce antibiotic use by 2.5 billion doses annually, says WHO (Oct 10)



Sent Via Email

October 4, 2024

**The Regional Municipality
of Durham**

**Planning and Economic
Development Department**

Planning Division

605 Rossland Road East
Level 4
PO Box 623
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3
Canada

905-668-7711
1-800-372-1102
Fax: 905-666-6208
Email: planning@durham.ca

durham.ca

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development

Growthplanning@Ontario.ca
Provincial Land Use Plans Branch
13th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2J3

Dear ERO Official,

**RE: Region of Durham Staff Response
ERO Posting #019-9065
Consideration of transition of land use planning
matters to facilitate the introduction of a new policy
statement issued under the Planning Act.**

On August 20, 2024, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) released ERO Posting #019-9065, seeking feedback on planning matters in process that should be addressed through a transition regulation, under the Planning Act. The intent of such a regulation is to facilitate implementation of the Provincial Planning Statement, which comes into effect on October 20, 2024.

The Region has been actively engaged in all consultation opportunities related to the development of the new Provincial Planning Statement, as illustrated in report [2024-INFO-51](#).

In response to ERO Posting #019-9065, there are two planning application types that the Region believes are appropriate for the Minister to include within a transition regulation, they include:

- 1. Secondary Plans and Official Plan Amendments that have received or nearing area municipal Council adoption; and**
- 2. Matters currently before the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT)**

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact Planning Reception at 1-800-372-1102, ext. 2551.

Secondary Plans and Official Plan Amendments that have received or nearing area municipal Council adoption

There are a significant amount of adopted Secondary Plans and Official Plan Amendment applications under review within the Region of Durham, representing well over 10,000 residential units.

In the absence of transition provisions, the planning and approval process for these units would be delayed and negatively impact the ability to advance the construction of desperately needed housing units within the Region.

Most recently, the Region issued its decision to approve two Secondary Plans within the Region. The Wilmot Creek Secondary Plan within the Municipality of Clarington is planned to facilitate the construction of 1,100 residential units. The Columbus Secondary Plan within the City of Oshawa is planned to produce over 7,400 residential units. Both matters have been adopted, however, are currently awaiting final approval pending the associated appeal period.

It should be noted that within the Region are there are many other adopted official plan amendments or amendments which are nearing adoption and the approval stage. For example, in the Municipality of Clarington, the Courtice MTSA, and the Bowmanville West and East Secondary plans have been subject to a lengthy planning process and are nearing the adoption stage. These secondary plans represent thousands of units and the retooling of these plans to address the new PPS provisions could adversely affect these plans and lead to a further delay of residential housing units. A full listing and details surrounding these amendments can be provided upon request.

Matters currently before the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT)

For those matters not related to a municipality's failure to make a decision, there should be consideration given to the months/years of resources expended for applications approved and ultimately appealed to the OLT.

Within the Region of Durham, there are many such appeals related to planning applications within the Region, representing a potential thousands of residential units. One such example is the Brookhill Secondary Plan within the Municipality of Clarington. The Secondary Plan was approved by the Region of Durham in July 2024 and was appealed to the OLT in August 2024. The Plan is anticipated to achieve a population of over 7,400 residents and 2,700 units.

As such, it is recommended that the above noted planning application types be granted consideration through a Minister's transition regulation. Failing to include

these application types in a transition regulation, may result in applications having to be re-submitted for review under the new Provincial Planning Statement, which would consequently impact thousands of planned residential units in Durham Region.

These comments represent those of Regional staff. A copy of this correspondence will be provided to Regional Council for information. Regional staff will follow-up if there are any changes to these comments made by Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on planning matters in process that should be addressed through a transition regulation. If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned or Amanda Bathe, Senior Planner at Amanda.Bathe@durham.ca.

Regards,

Lino Trombino

Lino Trombino, MCIP, RPP
Manger of Plan Implementation
Regional Municipality of Durham



Date & Time Received:	October 22, 2024 8:54 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles RESOLUTION PAGE



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.2.

Resolution Number 2024-363

Title: Resolution Stemming from July 17, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 7.0 - Correspondence #5

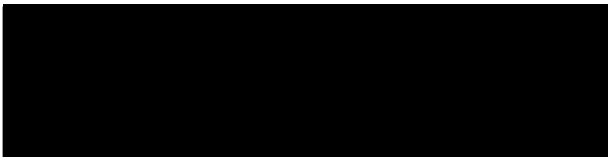
Date: October 16, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Laframboise

Seconded by: Councillor Pothier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports Resolution No. 2024-125 passed by the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt, regarding a PS3280 accounting standard covering asset retirement obligations;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Ontario Municipalities (FONOM); and all Ontario Municipalities.



CARRIED

MAYOR/



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBALT

June 26, 2024

The Corporation of the Township of Harley
903303 Hanbury Rd
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0

Please be advised that at the Regular Meeting of Council on June 25, 2024, the Town of Cobalt adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 2024-125

MOVED BY: Councillor Wilcox
SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

WHEREAS the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) establishes accounting standards for the public sector which must be followed by all Ontario municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Act, 2001, section 294.1 states that a municipality shall, for each fiscal year, prepare annual financial statements for the municipality in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments as recommended, from time to time, by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada;

AND WHEREAS PS3280 is a new accounting standard covering asset retirement obligations (ARO) that was approved by PSAB in March 2018;

AND WHEREAS the standard must be applied by all public sector entities who prepare their financial statements under PSAB, including all Canadian municipalities;

AND WHEREAS many small municipalities do not have accountants or engineers on staff to complete the ARO obligations and this major accounting changes will force small municipalities to hire consultants to complete this work and cause a significant financial burden to municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt supports the resolutions from the Township of Harley, Coleman Township, Township of Larder Lake, Township of Casey, Township of Hudson & Township of Kerns and hereby calls upon the province of Ontario to provide financial assistance to municipalities to complete the ARO;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), the Timiskaming Municipal Association (TMA), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) and all municipalities within the District of Timiskaming.

CARRIED

Kind Regards,

Steven Dalley
Town Manager, Clerk/Treasurer
Email: sdalley@cobalt.ca



Date & Time Received:	October 22, 2024 9:08 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.3.

Resolution Number 2024-364

Title: Resolution Stemming from July 17, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 7.1 - Correspondence #6

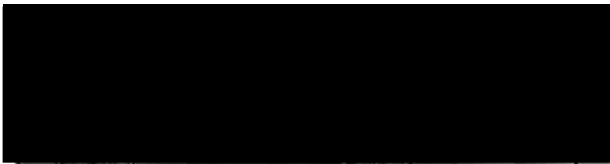
Date: October 16, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Pothier

Seconded by: Councillor Laframboise

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports the Resolution dated June 27, 2024 passed by the Town of Petrolia supporting the Resolution dated May 13, 2024 passed by the City of Belleville, regarding family doctors;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Premier Doug Ford; Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.



CARRIED

MAYOR

June 27, 2024

City of Belleville
Attn: Clerks Department

Via email: nhenderson@belleville.ca

RE: Family Doctors Resolution

During the June 24, 2024, regular meeting of council, the request submitted by the City of Belleville regarding the Family Doctors was brought forward and discussed, the following resolution was passed:

Moved: Debb Pitel Seconded: Liz Welsh

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Petrolia support the City of Belleville's resolution dated May 13, 2024;
AND THAT confirmation of the Town's support resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, MPP Bob Bailey, the City of Belleville and all municipalities in Ontario.

Carried

Kind regards,

Original Signed

Mandi Pearson
Director of Legislative Services | Deputy Operations | Clerk

cc: file
Premier Doug Ford
MPP Bob Bailey, Sarnia-Lambton
Ontario Municipalities

Encl.

Phone: (519)882-2350 • Fax: (519)882-3373 • Theatre: (800)717-7694

411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0

www.petrolia150.com www.town.petrolia.on.ca





CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT
TELEPHONE 613-968-6481
FAX 613-967-3205

City of Belleville

169 FRONT STREET
BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO
K8N 2Y8

May 16, 2024

Todd Smith, MPP
Prince Edward Hastings
5503 Hwy 62 S., Phase 1, Unit #4
Belleville, ON K8N 4Z7

via e-mail: Todd.Smithco@pc.ola.org

Ric Bresee, MPP
Hastings-Lennox&Addington
8 Dundas St. W
Napanea, ON K7R 1Z4

via e-mail: Ric.Bresee@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister Smith and Minister Bresee:

**RE: City of Belleville Healthcare Resolution in Support of Family
Doctors
New Business
10. Belleville City Council Meeting, May 13, 2024**

This is to advise you that at the Council Meeting of May 13, 2024, the following resolution was approved.

"WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario is responsible for providing quality health care to all residents of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS, Family medicine is the backbone of the healthcare system and providing timely access to a primary health care provider for everyone in the Province is essential and should be the Provincial Government's highest priority;

AND WHEREAS, the shortage of family physicians across the province has reached a crisis point where millions of Ontario residents do not have a family doctor and hospitals, emergency rooms and clinics are overloaded by the health care needs of Ontario residents;

.J2

10. New Business
Belleville City Council Meeting
May 13, 2024

Page 2

AND WHEREAS, studies have shown that without access to a primary care provider, patients end up with poorer health outcomes and it costs the health care system more;

AND WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario could address this issue quickly and efficiently by increasing wages paid to family physicians and lessening the administrative burden all family doctors face with managing practices;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Province of Ontario take immediate action to ensure family physicians are properly compensated with immediate fee increases and that the administrative burden now being experienced by family doctors be reduced so they have more time to see their patients;

AND FURTHER THAT, the City Clerk forward Council's resolutions resulting from Council's approval of these recommendations to premier Doug Ford, Health Minister Sylvia Jones, MPP Todd Smith, MPP Ric Bresee, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and to the municipal Clerks of Ontario's municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT Council request a direct response from the MPPs within 30 days."

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yc

Matt MacDonald
Director of Corporate Services/City Clerk

Phone: (519)882-2350 • Fax: (519)882-2351

411 G

www.petr.ca

MMacD/nh
Pc: Premier Doug Ford
Health Minister Sylvia Jones
AMO
Municipal Clerks of Ontario



The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE




Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.4.
Resolution Number 2024-365
Title: Resolution Stemming from July 17, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 7.1 - Correspondence #7
Date: October 16, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Laframboise
Seconded by: Councillor Pothier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports the Resolution dated June 24, 2024 passed by the City of St. Catharines, regarding the Green Roads Pilot Project;
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and all Ontario Municipalities.


MAYOR/ **CARRIED**

	Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division
Date & Time Received:	October 22, 2024 9:04 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

June 27, 2024

Association of Municipalities of Ontario
155 University Ave | Suite 800
Toronto, ON M5H 3B7

Sent via email: resolutions@amo.on.ca

**Re: Green Roads Pilot Project
Our File 35.72.3**

To Whom it May Concern,

At its meeting held on June 24, 2024, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

WHEREAS St. Catharines has declared a climate emergency, recognizing the urgent need to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change on our community and environment; and

WHEREAS alternatives to traditional road surfacing materials exist, including green roads technologies that are more sustainable and environmentally friendly; and

WHEREAS bioresin is a natural alternative that can be used to support road surfacing, providing a more sustainable option that reduces our reliance on petrochemical-based products; and

WHEREAS many secondary roads in St. Catharines require resurfacing, presenting an opportunity to explore and implement innovative and sustainable road surfacing solutions; and

WHEREAS Good Roads, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) have presented alternatives for municipal road restoration that include sustainable and environmentally friendly materials and methods; and

WHEREAS other municipalities, such as Centre Wellington, have entered into a similar pilot project using bioresin and other sustainable materials, demonstrating a commitment to innovation and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS implementing pilot projects using bioresin on city roads can provide valuable data and insights into the feasibility, performance, and environmental benefits of this alternative material; and

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has established the Green Municipal Fund which includes new funding for pilot projects to test innovative and ambitious technologies to improve environmental outcomes;

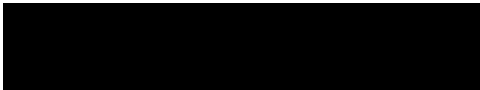
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that St. Catharines City Council directs staff to investigate the feasibility and potential benefits of using bioresin on City road works; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff investigate other alternative construction materials and methods for road works that minimizes the City's carbon footprint and are more environmentally sustainable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff prepare a report on the findings, no later than Q3 2024, including potential costs, benefits, and environmental impacts of using bioresin or other sustainable construction materials or methods for road works, and if feasible, a list of City streets where a pilot project may be considered in accordance with the City's procurement policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to all Ontario municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the FCM to encourage the exploration and adoption of sustainable road surfacing alternatives.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at extension 1524.



Donna Delvecchio, Acting City Clerk
Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk
:sm

cc: all Ontario Municipalities

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	October 22, 2024 9:14 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.5.

Resolution Number 2024-366

Title: Resolution Stemming from July 17, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 7.1 - Correspondence #22

Date: October 16, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Pothier

Seconded by: Councillor Laframboise

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports Resolution 207-2024 passed by the Township of Terrace Bay, regarding sustainable funding for OPP in small rural municipalities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Premier Doug Ford; the Solicitor General of Ontario, Michael Kerzner; the Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

MAYOR



The Corporation of the Township of Terrace Bay

P.O. Box 40, 1 Selkirk Avenue, Terrace Bay, ON, P0T 2W0
Phone: (807) 825-3315 Fax: (807) 825-9576

July 10, 2024

Municipality of Tweed
255 Metcalf St
Tweed, Ontario
K0K 3J0

At the Township of Terrace Bay Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday July 2, 2024, the following resolution was passed.

Re: Sustainable Funding for OPP small rural municipalities

Resolution: 207-2024
Moved by: Councillor Gary Adduono
Seconded by: Councillor Rick St. Louis

WHEREAS it is apparent that the Ontario Government has overlooked the needs of small rural Ontario; AND

WHEREAS Ontario's small rural municipalities face insurmountable challenges to fund both upfront investments and ongoing maintenance of their capital assets including roads, bridges, water/wastewater and municipally owned buildings including recreational facilities, libraries and other tangible capital assets:

AND WHEREAS small rural Ontario's operating needs consume the majority of property tax revenue sources; AND WHEREAS small rural municipalities (of 10,000 people or less) are facing monumental infrastructure deficits that cannot be adequately addressed through property tax revenue alone; *AND

WHEREAS in 2015 the provincial government moved to standardized billing for all non-contract D.P.P. (5.1) locations; AND WHEREAS the Ontario Government has committed \$9.1 billion to Toronto alone to assist with operating deficits and the repatriation of the Don Valley and Gardner Expressway; and \$534 million to Ottawa for the repatriation of Hwy 174; AND WHEREAS the annual cost of the Ontario Provincial Police, Municipal Policing Bureau for small rural non-contract (5.1) municipalities is approximately \$428 million;

AND WHEREAS this annual cost is significantly less than the repatriation costs of the Gardiner Express Way, the Don Valley Parkway and Highway 174 (Ottawa Region) but provides a greater impact to the residents of the Province overall; AND WHEREAS this will afford relief to small rural municipalities for both infrastructure and operating needs while having a minimal impact on the provincial budget; NOW

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Municipality of Tweed call on the Ontario Government to immediately implement sustainable funding for small rural municipalities by reabsorbing the cost of the Ontario Provincial Police Force back into the provincial budget with no cost recovery to municipalities:



The Corporation of the Township of Terrace Bay

P.O. Box 40, 1 Selkirk Avenue, Terrace Bay, ON, P0T 2W0
Phone: (807) 825-3315 Fax: (807) 825-9576

AND FURTHER, that Council direct staff to circulate this resolution to Premier Doug Ford (premier@ontario.ca), Minister of Solicitor General, Minister of Finance, MPP for Thunder bay-Superior North, Lise Vaugeois and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (amo@amo.on.ca) and at Municipalities of Ontario.

Sincerely,


J. Hall
Chief Administration Officer/Clerk

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	October 22, 2024 9:19 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.6.
Resolution Number 2024-367
Title: Resolution Stemming from August 14, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 7.1 - Correspondence #10
Date: October 16, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Pothier
Seconded by: Councillor Laframboise

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports Resolution #RC24168 passed by the Municipality of Wawa, regarding Immediate Action Needed to Support Ontario's Forest Sector;
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Premier Doug Ford; the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Graydon Smith; the Minister of Northern Development, Greg Rickford; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

[Redacted Signature]

CARRIED

MAYOR/



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Resolution # RC24168	Meeting Order: 11
Moved by: [Redacted]	S [Redacted]

WHEREAS Council of the Municipality of Wawa received correspondence from the Ontario Forest Industries Association dated June 19, 2024 regarding Immediate Action Needed to Support Ontario's Forest Sector;

NOWHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa does hereby receive and support the correspondence dated June 19, 2024 from the Ontario Forest Industries Association and urges the Ontario government support all measures targeting the immediate challenges the Ontario Forest sector faces.

RESOLUTION RESULT		RECORDED VOTE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CARRIED		MAYOR AND COUNCIL	
<input type="checkbox"/> DEFEATED		Mitch Hatfield	
<input type="checkbox"/> TABLED		Cathy Cannon	
<input type="checkbox"/> RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)		Melanie Pilon	
<input type="checkbox"/> PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED		Jim Hoffmann	
<input type="checkbox"/> WITHDRAWN		Joseph Opato	

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: _____

MAYOR – MELANIE PILON [Redacted]	CLERK – MAURY O'NEILL [Redacted]
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This document is available in alternate formats.



June 19, 2024

The Hon. Graydon Smith
Minister of Natural Resources
Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1W3

The Hon. Nolan Quinn
Associate Minister of Forestry
Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1W3

Submitted via email.

Re: Immediate Action Needed To Support Ontario's Forest Sector

Minister Graydon Smith and Associate Minister Nolan Quinn,

Congratulations on your recent appointments within Premier Doug Ford's Cabinet. The Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) looks forward to our productive and continued work together.

Over the last six months, three of Ontario's six pulp and paper mills have permanently closed or idled. Adding to the issue was the closure of a critical softwood pulp market in Quebec. As you know, these facilities served as important consumers of solid-wood byproducts from Ontario sawmills.

The OFIA appreciates the many opportunities we have had to speak with you and senior leadership within Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and Premier's Office. This includes in-person meetings with members of OFIA's Board Executive Committee on January 19th, March 19th, and May 28th, 2024. During these meetings, the OFIA presented short and long-term actions Ontario could take to address the regional chip and pulpwood market crisis endorsed by the OFIA membership (incl.).

The industry eagerly anticipates government action on this matter, as operating conditions for many have continued to worsen over the past six months. Combined with weak markets for some finished products, many companies struggle to continue their operations. We are now facing an unprecedented challenge in the sector, which could have negative and long-lasting implications for northern and rural communities across Ontario.

Without immediate action in response to OFIA recommendations and, critically, the vetting of potential solutions through the industry to ensure programs truly meet the sector's needs, we fear Ontario could face further curtailments, job losses, and lost economic opportunity.

The OFIA is ready to work with the Ontario government to set the forest products sector on a long-term and stable path towards economic development and prosperity. This includes our

vision of a *Forest Energy Directive* to develop bioheat, district heating, liquid fuels, renewable gases, biocarbon, and electricity generation projects, supporting Ontario's massive forecasted growth in non-emitting energy demands.

We urge you and your colleagues to continue supporting all measures targeting the immediate challenges the Ontario forest sector faces and look forward to future discussions with you.

Sincerely,



Ian Dunn, R.P.F.
President & CEO
Ontario Forest Industries Association
Cell: 647-297-3827

Incl. March 19th, 2024 Slide Deck – Summary of Input from the Membership – OFIA Meeting with the Hon. Graydon Smith

May 28th, 2024 Slide Deck – Ontario Forest Energy Directive

CC The Hon. Caroline Mulroney, President of the Treasury Board
The Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
The Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
The Hon. Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development and Indigenous Affairs
The Hon. George Pirie, Minister of Mines
The Hon. Steven Lecce, Minister of Energy and Electrification
The Hon. Sam Oosterhoff, Associate Minister of Energy Intensive Industries
The Hon. Todd Smith, Minister of Education
The Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
MPP John Yakabuski, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy
MPP Kevin Holland, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Mines
Deputy Minister Drew Vanderduim, Ministry of Natural Resources
OFIA Membership



Date & Time Received:	October 22, 2024 9:23 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.7.

Resolution Number 2024-368

Title: Resolution Stemming from August 14, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 7.1 - Correspondence #19

Date: October 16, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Laframboise

Seconded by: Councillor Pothier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports Resolution #2024-08-07-10 passed by the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch & Raglan, urging the Government to promptly resume the assessment cycle;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Premier Doug Ford; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED



 MAYOR



Date & Time Received:	October 22, 2024 9:31 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.9.

Resolution Number 2024-370

Title: Resolution Stemming from September 18, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 7.1 - Correspondence #17

Date: October 16, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Laframboise

Seconded by: Councillor Pothier

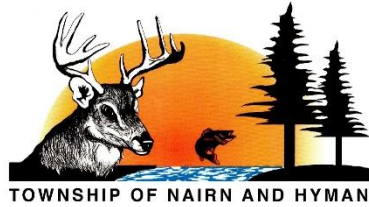
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports Resolution 2024-EM1-2 passed by the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Township of Baldwin, regarding concerns with the transport and deposition of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) at the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford; the Minister of Mines, George Pirie; the Minister of Transportation, Prabmeet Sarkaria; the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Andrea Khanjin; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

[Redacted signature area]

CARRIED

MAYOR



August 21, 2024

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

RE: Concerns with the Transport and Deposition of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) at the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area (ALTMA)

Dear Premier Ford,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Council of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Township of Baldwin to formally submit the attached resolution passed jointly by the two Councils at a Joint Emergency Council Meeting on August 19, 2024.

Our two Townships very recently learned of the decision to transport naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) from the former Beaucage Mine Site and Nipissing First Nation reserve lands and deposit it at the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area in the Township of Nairn and Hyman. The decision to transport and deposit NORM has far-reaching implications for the environment, public health, and safety of our communities, and this significant decision was made without any consultation with our municipalities and the other municipalities located near Agnew Lake or along the Highway 17 corridor.

In addition to the participation of our municipalities in this Emergency Council Meeting, many representatives from surrounding First Nations attended the meeting, underscoring the widespread concern across our region about this impending project. The planned transportation of NORM is scheduled to begin in the coming weeks, therefore we respectfully request your attention to this urgent matter.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION: 2024-EM1-2

DATE: August 19, 2024

MOVED BY: Councillor McVey

SECONDED BY: Councillor Cote

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin have been informed of the decision to transport naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) from the former Beaucage Mine and Nipissing First Nation reserve land, and deposit it at the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area (ALTMA) in the Township of Nairn and Hyman; and

WHEREAS this decision has significant implications for the environment, public health, and safety of the surrounding communities, including those within the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Township of Baldwin; and

WHEREAS the decision to transport and deposit NORM to the ALTMA site was made without any consultation with the Township of Nairn and Hyman or the other municipalities bordering Agnew Lake, resulting in the exclusion of local municipalities from the decision-making process; and

WHEREAS the exclusion of local municipalities from this process represents a serious breach of trust and a disregard for the well-being of the residents of these communities; and

WHEREAS there are significant concerns among residents regarding the potential contamination of drinking water sources, particularly Agnew Lake, which many residents rely on for safe drinking water; and

WHEREAS the risks associated with NORM are well-documented, and the proximity of the ALTMA to Agnew Lake heightens the concerns regarding the potential contamination of this vital water source; and

WHEREAS according to information received from the Ministry of Mines, there are already some areas of the ALTMA site where dose estimates exceed the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's regulatory limit for casual site users; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin held a joint Emergency Council Meeting on August 19, 2024;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin respectfully demands that the Province of Ontario, the Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Transportation immediately halt the project involving the transportation and deposition of NORM at the ALTMA site until a clear line of communication is established with local municipalities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin respectfully demands full disclosure of all pertinent details regarding the proposed future NORM transportation and deposition plan, including specific transportation routes, emergency response plans, safety protocols, and the future management plan for the ALTMA site; and

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin insists that environmental and health impact assessments be conducted with input from independent experts, and that these assessments include opportunities for public hearings to ensure transparency and community involvement; and

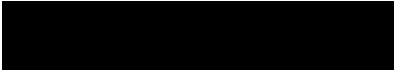
THAT the Province of Ontario enact legislation that consultation with municipalities is a requirement of any projects that include the transportation or deposition of NORM; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable George Pirie, the Minister of Mines; the Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, the Minister of Transportation; the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Chief Toulouse and Sagamok Anishnawbek Council Members; Chief Nootchtai and Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Council Members; the Ontario Ombudsman; the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission; the Canadian Environmental Law Association; MP Carol Hughes; MPP Michael Mantha; the Association of Ontario Municipalities and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

For more information regarding this matter, please contact our municipal office by email at belindaketchabaw@nairncentre.ca or by phone at (705) 869-4232.

Yours truly,


Belinda Ketchabaw
CAO Clerk Treasurer
Township of Nairn and Hyman

Cc:

Honourable George Pirie, the Minister of Mines
Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, the Minister of Transportation
Honourable Andrea Khanjin, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Chief Toulouse and Sagamok Anishnawbek Council Members
Chief Nootchtai and Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Council Members
Ontario Ombudsman
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
Canadian Environmental Law Association
MP Carol Hughes
MPP Michael Mantha
Association of Ontario Municipalities
All Ontario Municipalities



Date & Time Received:	October 22, 2024 9:28 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.8.

Resolution Number 2024-369

Title: Resolution Stemming from September 18, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 7.1 - Correspondence #11

Date: October 16, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Laframboise

Seconded by: Councillor Pothier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports Motion No. 24-366 passed by the City of Quinte West, regarding the Canada Community-Building Fund;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau; the Minister of Finance, Chrystia Freeland; the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, Sean Fraser; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Parliament (MP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

MAYOR

P.O. Box 490
7 Creswell Drive
Trenton, Ontario K8V 5R6
www.quintewest.ca



A Natural Attraction

Tel: 613-392-2841
Toll Free: 1-866-485-2841
virinial@quintewest.ca
clerk@quintewest.ca

Virginia LaTour, Deputy City Clerk

August 15, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Via Email - justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

RE: Notice of Motion – Councillor Stedall – The Canada Community-Building Fund

Dear Prime Minister:

This letter will serve to advise that at a meeting of City of Quinte West Council held on August 14, 2024 Council passed the following resolution:

Motion No 24-366 – Notice of Motion - Councillor Stedall - The Canada Community-Building Fund
Moved by Councillor Stedall
Seconded by Councillor McCue

Whereas the City of Quinte West is entering into an agreement to receive Canada Community-Building Funds, which is administered by the Association of Ontario Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) on behalf of the Federal government;

And whereas the funding allocations are less that 2% year over year for the next 5 years;

And whereas the amounts allocated in the past 5 years were less than 2% year over year;

And whereas non-residential construction price inflation has risen by 29% since the end of 2020 and municipalities are facing soaring costs for infrastructure projects without a corresponding growth in revenue;

And whereas there is a requirement for municipalities to complete an asset management plan and a housing needs analysis;

And whereas both of these plans show the large funding gap between infrastructure and housing needs and funds available from property taxation;

And whereas The City of Quinte West has over \$1.5 billion in core infrastructure assets and, like other municipalities, its infrastructure is aging and in need of upgrades and replacement;

And whereas The City's Asset Management Plan requires \$37 million annually to maintain existing assets which, based on current available funding, is resulting in an annual infrastructure deficit of over \$17.1 million;

And whereas municipalities are facing a gap in federal infrastructure funding as the 10-year Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program has come to an end;

Now therefore be it resolved that the City of Quinte West calls on the Federal Government to provide a supplement to the allocations provided to municipalities under the AMO CBBF agreement for 2024 - 2028 for the same amount that was allocated, effectively doubling the allocation for those years;

And further that this resolution be forwarded to MFOA, AMO, MP Ryan Williams, and Federal Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, and all Municipalities in Ontario.
Carried

We trust that you will give favourable consideration to this request.

Yours Truly,

CITY OF QUINTE WEST



Virginia LaTour,
Deputy City Clerk

cc: Donna Herridge, Executive Director, MFOA
Colin Best, President, AMO
Ryan Williams, MP, Bay of Quinte
Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
All Municipalities of Ontario



Council - Committee of the Whole

Resolution # 2024/285
Title: Authorize support of Parry Sound resolution re: AMCTO recommendations to update Municipal Elections Act
Date: October 15, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Roland Larabie
Seconded by: Councillor Georges Pharand

WHEREAS at the meeting of October 15, 2024, Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing received and supports resolution no. 2024-152 from the Town of Parry Sound;
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing calls on the Province of Ontario to update the *Municipal Elections Act* (MEA) with the priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with long-term recommendations ahead of the upcoming elections;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca), the Minister of Education (minister.edu@ontario.ca), the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery (todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca), the Minister of Finance (minister.fin@ontario.ca), the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontari.ca), John Vanthof (MPP) and AMCTO (advocacy@amcto.com)

CARRIED



Council - Committee of the Whole

Résolution # 2024/285
Titre: Autoriser le soutien de la résolution de Parry Sound concernant les recommandations de l'AMCTO pour la mise à jour de la loi sur les élections municipales
Date: le 15 octobre 2024

Proposé par: Councillor Roland Larabie
Appuyé par: Councillor Georges Pharand

ATTENDU QUE lors de la réunion du 15 octobre 2024, le conseil de la municipalité de Nipissing Ouest a reçu et appuie la résolution no 2024-152 de la ville de Parry Sound ;
IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le conseil de la municipalité de Nipissing Ouest demande à la province de l'Ontario de mettre à jour la Loi sur les élections municipales (LEM) avec les amendements prioritaires tels que décrits par l'AMCTO et de commencer le travail de révision et de réécriture de la LEM avec des recommandations à long terme avant les prochaines élections ;
IL EST EN OUTRE RÉSOLU QU'une copie de cette résolution soit transmise à toutes les municipalités de l'Ontario pour obtenir leur soutien et que chaque appui soit ensuite transmis au ministre des Affaires municipales et du Logement (minister.mah@ontario.ca), au ministre de l'Éducation (minister.edu@ontario.ca), au ministre de la Prestation des services publics et commerciaux (todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca), au ministre des Finances (minister.fin@ontario.ca), au premier ministre de l'Ontario (premier@ontari.ca), à John Vanthof (député provincial) et à l'AMCTO (advocacy@amcto.com).

ADOPTÉ



52 Seguin Street, Parry Sound, Ontario P2A 1B4
Tel: (705) 746-2101 • Fax: (705) 746-7461 • www.parrysound.ca

October 2, 2024

Minister Paul Calandra
Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street
College Park 17th Floor,
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Via e-mail: minister.mah@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Calandra,

I am writing to you as the Municipal Clerk at the Town of Parry Sound and as the municipal officer responsible for the administration of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* in support of [AMCTO's recommendations](#) calling for the comprehensive changes to *MEA*.

AMCTO members, as municipal leaders, support the interests and well-being of 235,000 municipal employees across all municipalities in this Province.

Local election administrators care about running fair and accessible elections. We care about ensuring that candidates, voters, and third-party advertisers understand their responsibilities. We care that those that may knowingly break the rules are held to account. We care that the *MEA* and the accompanying *Education Act* and *Assessment Act* are complicated pieces of legislation on their own, and more so read together.

That is why AMCTO reviews the *Act* after every local election and why the Province should be making the necessary changes to make election administration easier and the *Act* clearer to follow for candidates and voters within the timelines AMCTO has set out.

Never has there been a more important moment to ensure the *Act* is working well, closes gaps and provides the right enforcement tools and mechanisms to safeguard our local electoral processes from threats of foreign interference, misinformation and bad actors. Local clerks need support and guidance on how to manage these threats and deal with potential events especially considering the federal government's recent legislation on foreign interference (Bill C-70).

AMCTO convened a group of municipal staff with experience and expertise in administering local elections to present you with several recommendations for making improvements to *MEA* and calling for an overhaul of the *Act* in the long-term.

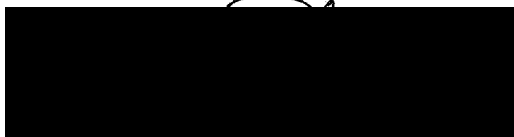
I support AMCTO's recommendations and call on you to update the *MEA* with priority and secondary recommendations by mid 2025 ahead of the 2026 election so that I can make the necessary adjustments for planning and implementation well ahead of statutory timelines imposed upon me to administer an election.

There is a provincial interest in ensuring the health of local democracy and the time to act is now – proactively instead of reactively. Election administrators face several uncertainties as we look ahead to 2026. We observe that in other jurisdictions with elections there is an increasing use of artificial intelligence (AI) and other technology to spread misinformation. There are increased levels of electoral interference. Even in Canada, we are seeing reports of more candidates and elected officials stepping back from public life because of concerns for their safety and reputations.

There also is a provincial interest for reducing administrative and operational burdens to help free up staff time to focus on other critical statutory and operational tasks such as those related to planning and development processes, municipal governance, as well as service innovation, in support of provincial priorities.

I look forward to seeing legislation introduced to update the *MEA* in the coming months to address current challenges, streamline processes, and make legislation easier to understand and administer.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Johnson
Clerk

/rj
Encl.

cc: Paul Shipway, President, AMCTO president@amcto.com
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and
Housing martha.greenberg@ontario.ca
Jill Dunlop, Minister of Education minister.edu@ontario.ca
Todd McCarthy, Minister of Public & Business Service Delivery &
Procurement todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca
Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance Minister.fin@ontario.ca
Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario premier@ontario.ca
Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka Graydon.Smith@pc.ola.org
Ontario Municipal Clerks



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND
RESOLUTION IN COUNCIL

NO. 2024 – 152

DIVISION LIST

YES NO

DATE: October 1, 2024

Councillor	G. ASHFORD	_____	_____
Councillor	J. BELESKEY	_____	_____
Councillor	P. BORNEMAN	_____	_____
Councillor	B. KEITH	_____	_____
Councillor	D. McCANN	_____	_____
Councillor	C. McDONALD	_____	_____
Mayor	J. McGARVEY	_____	_____

MOVED BY:

SECONDED

CARRIED: DEFEATED: _____ Postponed to: _____

WHEREAS election rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections.

WHEREAS legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process,

WHEREAS the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring that local election administrators can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities.

WHEREAS the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) will be 30 years old by the next municipal and school board elections in 2026.

WHEREAS the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the Assessment Act, 1990 and the Education Act, 1990 also contain provisions impacting local elections adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario.

WHEREAS with rules across three pieces of legislation, and the MEA containing a patchwork of clauses, there are interpretation challenges, inconsistencies, and gaps to fill.

WHEREAS the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and thirdparty advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administrators to enforce.

WHEREAS while local elections are run as efficiently and effectively as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous improvement is needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today’s needs and tomorrow’s challenges.

WHEREAS to keep public trust and improve safeguards the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis/disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence and use of digital identities.

WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) reviewed the Act and has provided several recommendations including modernizing the legislation, harmonizing rules, and streamlining and simplifying administration.


AND WHEREAS AMCTO put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Parry Sound calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer-term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca), the Minister of Education (minister.edu@ontario.ca), the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery (todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca), Minister of Finance (Minister.fin@ontario.ca) the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca), Parry Sound Muskoka MPP Graydon Smith and AMCTO (advocacy@amcto.com).

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Deputy Mayor.

Deputy Mayor Chris McDonald

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	October 22, 2024 9:10 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	



**The Corporation of the
County of Northumberland**
 555 Courthouse Road
 Cobourg, ON, K9A 5J6



Northumberland County Council Resolution

SENT VIA EMAIL

October 21, 2024

Hon. Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario)
 Hon. Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)
 Hon. David Piccini (Minister of Labour Immigration, Training and Skills Development and
 MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South)
 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Correspondence, Township of Stirling-Rawdon 'Public Sector Salary Disclosure

At a meeting held on October 16, 2024 Northumberland County Council approved Council Resolution # 2024-10-16-717, adopting the below recommendation from the October 1, 2024 Corporate Support Committee meeting:

Moved by: Councillor John Logel
Seconded by: Council Alternate Michael Metcalf

"**That** the Corporate Support Committee, having considered the correspondence from the Township of Stirling-Rawdon regarding 'Public Sector Salary Disclosure', recommend that County Council support the correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), the Honourable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), the Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland- Peterborough South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario Municipalities."

Council Resolution # 2024-10-16-717

Carried

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at matherm@northumberland.ca or by telephone at 905-372-3329 ext. 2238.

Sincerely,
 Maddison Mather



Manager of Legislative Services / Clerk
 Northumberland County

Council Resolution

Moved By J. Logel Agenda Item 10 Resolution Number 2024-10-16- 717
 Seconded By M. Metcalf

Council Date: October 16, 2024

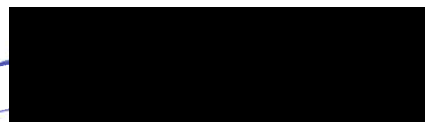
"That Council adopt all recommendations from the four Standing Committees, as contained within the Committee Minutes (meetings held September 30, 2024 and October 1 and 2, 2024), with the exception of the following items (referenced from the Standing Committee Minutes), that will be held for discussion:

Committee Name	Item #	Description	Held By
		- Economic Development, Tourism and Land Use Planning Committee, Item 9.b, Correspondence, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing 'Request to Repeal Official Plan Amendments Adopting By-law' – Held by Councillor Logel	
		- Public Works Committee, Item 9.a, Report 2024-122, 'Transfer of Thompson Bridge from Northumberland County to the Municipality of Trent Hills' – Held by Council Alternate Michael Metcalf.	
		- Social Services Committee, Item 5.a, Delegation, James Bisson 'Homelessness and Encampment Response Report' – Held by Deputy Warden Hankivsky	
		- Social Services Committee, Item 8.a(1), Delegation, Vivian Vandenhazel 'Encampment Response and Progress on 310 Division Street, Cobourg Update – Presentation' – Held by Councillor Cleveland	
		- Social Services Committee, Item 8.a(2), Encampment Response and Progress on 310 Division Street, Cobourg Update - Presentation – Held by Councillor Cleveland	

And Further That the items listed above and held for separate discussion each require a separate resolution."

Recorded Vote Requested by _____
 Councillor's Name

Carried



Warden's Signature

Deferred _____
 Warden's Signature

Defeated _____
 Warden's Signature

Corporate Support Committee Resolution

Committee Meeting Date: October 1, 2024

Agenda Item: 7.a

Resolution Number: 2024-10-01- 615

Moved by: S. Dibb

Seconded by: B. Ostrander

Council Meeting Date: October 16, 2024

"**That** the Corporate Support Committee, having considered the correspondence from the Township of Stirling-Rawdon regarding 'Public Sector Salary Disclosure', recommend that County Council support the correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), the Honourable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), the Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland- Peterborough South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario Municipalities."

Carried 
Committee Chair's Signature

Defeated _____
Committee Chair's Signature

Deferred _____
Committee Chair's Signature



2529 Stirling-Marmora Road
Box 40
Stirling, ON K0K 3E0
Phone: 613-395-3380 Fax: 613-395-0864

August 21, 2024

Premier's Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Hon. Ford,

Re: Public Sector Salary Disclosure

At the August 6, 2024 Standing Committees meeting, Committee made the following recommendation:

Moved by Councillor Dean Graff
Seconded by Councillor Don Stewart

That the report from the CAO-Treasurer entitled, "Public Sector Salary Disclosure" be received; and

That Committee recommends to Council the following resolution be adopted and forwarded to the Province of Ontario Premier's Office, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario Municipalities;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act be updated to reflect the inflation rates since 1996; and further

That the Act be further updated so that the inflation rate is applied each year to the requirement to report public salaries.

Carried.

This resolution was subsequently ratified and confirmed by Council at their meeting of August 19, 2024.


Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Sydney Dodson
Deputy Clerk

/sd

Cc: Roxanne Hearn – CAO/Treasurer, Premier Doug Ford, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, AMO, all Ontario Municipalities



 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	October 22, 2024 1:20 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Clerk's Department
Township of Clearview
Box 200, 217 Gideon Street
Stayner, Ontario L0M 1S0
clerks@clearview.ca | www.clearview.ca
Phone: 705-428-6230

October 22, 2024

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Hon. Rob Flack

Sent by Email: Rob.Flack@pc.ola.org

RE: Request for Support – Increase Tile Drain Loan Limit

Please be advised at its meeting held on October 21, 2024, Council of the Township of Clearview passed the following resolution supporting the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe's request that the Province consider increasing the maximum annual Tile Drain Loan Limit:

Moved by Councillor Beelen, Seconded by Councillor McArthur, Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview hereby support the motion from the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe requesting that the Province, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, consider increasing the maximum annual Tile Drain Loan Limit to a minimum of \$100,000; and,

That Council direct staff to send this support motion to the Honourable Rob Flack - Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and all Ontario municipalities. Motion Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Sasha Helmkey-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC
Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

cc: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
All Ontario Municipalities



March 22nd, 2024

The Honourable Lisa Thompson
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
11th Floor
77 Grenville St.
Toronto, ON M5S 1B3

RE: Township of Adelaide Metcalfe – Request to Increase Tile Drain Loan Limit

Dear Minister Thompson,

On March 18, 2024, the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe Council approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS farm drainage is of paramount importance in Ontario due to its significant impact on agricultural productivity and sustainability. Effective drainage systems help mitigate waterlogging, control soil moisture levels, and enhance soil structure, thereby optimizing growing conditions for crops;

WHEREAS improved drainage also facilitates timely field operations, reduces erosion, and minimizes nutrient runoff, contributing to environmental conservation efforts;

WHEREAS Ontario's diverse agricultural landscape, where weather variability is common, well-maintained drainage systems play a crucial role in ensuring stable yields, economic viability, and long-term resilience for farmers across the Province;

WHEREAS the Tile Loan Drainage Act, R.S.O 1990, c. T.8 allows for the borrowing of money for the purpose of constructing drainage works;

WHEREAS the maximum annual limit for these loans, unchanged since 2004, is currently set at \$50,000.

WHEREAS costs for Tile Drainage has increased markedly since 2004;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe requests that the Province through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) consider increasing the maximum annual Tile Loan limit to a minimum of \$100,000.

AND THAT this resolution be circulated the Honourable Lisa Thompson – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and all Ontario municipalities.



The Town of The Blue Mountains Council Meeting

Title: Scott R. Butler, Executive Director, Ontario Good Roads Association and Antoine Boucher, President, Ontario Good Roads Board of Directors

Date: Monday, October 21, 2024

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	October 24, 2024 9:01 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Moved by: Councillor McKinlay

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information the correspondence of Scott R. Butler, Executive Director, Ontario Good Roads Association and Antoine Boucher, President, Ontario Good Roads Board of Directors Re: Request for Council Consideration of Support for Resolution regarding the Establishment of an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program;

WHEREAS official statistics from the Government of Ontario confirm that rural roads are inherently more dangerous than other roads;

AND WHEREAS, despite only having 17% of the population, 55% of the road fatalities occur on rural roads;

AND WHEREAS, rural, northern, and remote municipalities are fiscally strained by maintaining extensive road networks on a smaller tax base;

AND WHEREAS, preventing crashes reduces the burden on Ontario’s already strained rural strained health care system;

AND WHEREAS, roadway collisions and associated lawsuits are significant factors in runaway municipal insurance premiums. Preventing crashes can have a significant impact in improving municipal risk profiles;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains requests that the Government of Ontario take action to implement the rural road safety program that Good Roads has committed to lead. It will allow Ontario's rural municipalities to make the critical investments needed to reduce the high number of people being killed and seriously injured on Ontario’s rural roads; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Hon. King Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, Hon. Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, and Good Roads; and

FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario requesting their support.

YES: 6

NO: 0

CONFLICT: 0

ABSENT: 1

The motion is Carried

YES: 6

Mayor Matrosovs

Councillor Ardiel

Councillor Hope

Councillor Maxwell

Councillor McKinlay

Councillor Porter

NO: 0

CONFLICT: 0

ABSENT: 1

Deputy Mayor Bordignon

From: Scott Butler <scott@goodroads.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 12:07 PM
To: Town Clerk <townclerk@thebluemountains.ca>
Subject: Establishment of an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program

Good Roads

Wednesday, October 09, 2024

To: Town of The Blue Mountains Head of Council and Council Members

Sent via email to: townclerk@thebluemountains.ca

Subject: Establishment of an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program

Too many Ontarians are being seriously injured or killed on our roads.

In 2023, there were 616 people killed and 36,090 people injured. The number of fatalities is up nearly 20% in the last ten years.

In 2021, the most recent year of complete data from MTO's *Ontario Road Safety Annual Report* (ORSAR), there were 561 fatalities – 426 of which occurred on municipal roads. While rural Ontario only represents 17% of the province's population, 55% of these deaths occurred on rural roads. By any measure, Ontario's rural roads are disproportionately more dangerous.

At the same time, municipal insurance premiums continue to increase. With no plausible reform being considered for joint and several liability, municipalities need to find innovative means for managing risk, particularly on their roadways,

To deal with this crisis, Good Roads has designed a multifaceted rural road safety program and have been in discussions with the Ministry of Transportation to fund it. The program would target a municipality's most dangerous roads, perform road safety audits, and install modern safety infrastructure that prevents serious injuries and save lives. This program is designed to be cost effective while also providing rural municipalities with a direct means for addressing risk associated with their roadways.

Good Roads has proposed leading a five-year \$183 million program that leverages our 131 years of municipal road expertise and our industry partnerships to quickly put in place the solutions that will address some of Ontario's most dangerous roads.

Good Roads is seeking support to address these preventable tragedies.

If the Town of The Blue Mountains would be interested in pursuing this, a Council resolution similar to the example below should be adopted and sent to the Premier and the Minister of Transportation:

WHEREAS official statistics from the Government of Ontario confirm that rural roads are inherently more dangerous than other roads;

AND WHEREAS, despite only having 17% of the population, 55% of the road fatalities occur on rural roads;

AND WHEREAS, rural, northern, and remote municipalities are fiscally strained by maintaining extensive road networks on a smaller tax base;

AND WHEREAS, preventing crashes reduces the burden on Ontario's already strained rural strained health care system;

AND WHEREAS, roadway collisions and associated lawsuits are significant factors in runaway municipal insurance premiums. Preventing crashes can have a significant impact in improving municipal risk profiles;

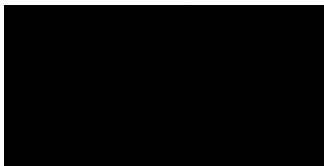
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains requests that the Government of Ontario take action to implement the rural road safety program that Good Roads has committed to lead. It will allow Ontario's rural municipalities to make the critical investments needed to reduce the high number of people being killed and seriously injured on Ontario's rural roads; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Hon. King Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, Hon. Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, and Good Roads; and

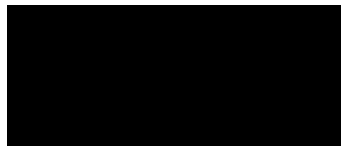
FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario requesting their support.

If you have any questions regarding this initiative please contact Thomas Barakat, Good Roads' Manager of Public Policy & Government Relations, at thomas@goodroads.ca at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Scott R. Butler
Executive Director



Antoine Boucher
President
Good Roads Board of Directors

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	October 22, 2024 12:19 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Correspondence to Durham Region Council via email to Clerks@Durham.ca
 October 22, 2024.

Regional Chair John Henry and Durham Region Council
 605 Rossland Rd East
 Whitby ON

Re: Bill C-59 Greenwashing Legislation and October 25th 2024 DYEC Tours

Durham Region councillors and staff should have been made aware that on June 20, 2024, Bill C-59, Canada’s, *Fall Economic Statement Implementation Act, 2023*, received Royal Assent and became law. Among many other things, this legislation makes significant amendments to the Canadian *Competition Act* (the “Act”).

Of immediate concern, who will monitor and/or vet the staff responses to the public’s questions and the “Information Material” at the October 25th DYEC tour to ensure that this not another exercise in “greenwashing”?

See below extracts from two law firms around what Bill c-59 entails.

<https://www.blq.com/en/insights/2024/07/false-advertising-and-greenwashing-bill-c-59-changes-to-competition-act>

BORDEN LADNER GERVAIS extract

New provisions on greenwashing claims – including a reverse onus

Businesses already face litigation risk for alleged greenwashing under existing federal and provincial laws. Adding to this, Bill C-59 expands the potential liability for greenwashing in two ways. First, Bill C-59 amends section 74.01 of the Competition Act to expressly address misleading environmental benefits claims made to the public:

- *Any statement, warranty or guarantee of a product’s benefits for protecting or restoring the environment or mitigating the environmental, social and ecological causes or effects of climate change that are not based on an adequate and proper testing; and*
- *Any representations with respect to the benefits of a business or business activity for protecting or restoring the environment or mitigating the environmental and ecological causes or effects of climate change that are not based on adequate and proper substantiation in accordance with internationally recognized methodology.*

Secondly, the onus is placed on the advertiser making such claims to prove, if they are challenged, that the claims are based on adequate and proper testing or substantiation.

These changes will make it significantly easier for the Commissioner of Competition (the Commissioner), **and soon private parties, to take enforcement action against greenwashing**. Previously, the Commissioner needed to rely on the general misleading advertising provisions of the Competition Act and bore the burden of proving that the environmental claims were materially false or misleading. These new provisions expressly identify types of problematic environmental claims, and force the advertiser, if challenged, to effectively bear the burden of proving that the claims are not misleading. This is a major change.

.....General provisions on false or misleading claims under the Competition Act

In recent years, businesses in Canada and abroad have faced increasing scrutiny for “greenwashing,” which the Bureau generally [refers to as false or misleading environmental advertisements or claims](#). Notwithstanding the new explicit provisions under Bill C-59, **greenwashing claims** are also subject to the general provisions on deceptive marketing in the Competition Act and in provincial consumer protection legislation.

Section 52 of the Competition Act makes it an offence for a person to make a representation knowingly or recklessly to the public that is false or misleading in a material respect for the purpose of promoting a business interest. Upon conviction for an indictable offence, a court can impose a fine without restrictions, imprisonment for up to 14 years, or both.

Also, section 74.01 of the Competition Act prescribes civil consequences for representations that are false or misleading in a material respect. Unlike the criminal provision under section 52 of the Act, section 74.01 does not require a person to have “knowingly or recklessly” made a false or misleading statement. Also, an offence under section 52 requires proof beyond a reasonable doubt, whereas the Commissioner need only prove misconduct under section 74.01 on a balance of probabilities.

Private rights of action for greenwashing claims

The changes that Bill C-59 bring will not only make it easier for the Commissioner to take action against greenwashing, but it will soon be easier for private parties to do so too. As of June 20, 2025, private parties can seek leave to bring actions for deceptive advertising directly before the Tribunal if they can show “public interest”. Therefore, individuals and businesses would no longer need to rely on the Bureau to act on their greenwashing complaints.

<https://gowlingwlg.com/en/insights-resources/articles/2024/new-greenwashing-laws-under-the-competition-act>

GOWLINGS extract:

In the absence of clear guidelines on what qualifies as an "internationally recognized methodology," and with expanded private access to the Competition Tribunal, green marketing in Canada may carry heightened risks, potentially leading to a chilling effect known as "greenhushing." Businesses are encouraged to conduct internal audits of their claims, including those on product packaging, advertisements and statements about their environmental practices, to ensure they are substantiated and aligned with international standards. Businesses may also wish to provide submissions to the Competition Bureau as it conducts public consultation in respect of potential revised environmental guidance on the new provisions aimed at greenwashing.

Navigating the complexities of greenwashing demands a robust strategy and meticulous attention to detail to mitigate reputational risks and potential legal liabilities. Ensuring the credibility and transparency of environmental claims, slogans and brands will be critical to maintaining consumer trust, as well as compliance with the new greenwashing provisions.

Notices re October 25th, 2024 Tour at DYEC

Below are two notices that Durham sent out re an October 25, 2024 tour of the DYEC.

The first was forwarded to me by a Pickering resident. I received the second notice by subscribing to Durham news.

From: noreply@esolutionsgroup.ca <noreply@esolutionsgroup.ca>
Sent: October 18, 2024 12:12 PM
To:
Subject: City of Pickering - What's happening next week!

Hello

You have subscribed to receive updates from the calendar.

Below is a snapshot of what's happening in the coming week.

Date	Event
October 25 2024, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM	<p>Transforming Waste Into Energy!</p> <p>Residents are invited to bring their children to the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC) for a free public event on Friday, October 25 and learn how the Region of Durham is transforming household waste into valuable resources.</p> <p>When: Friday, October 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p>

Where: Durham York Energy Centre at 1835 Energy Drive in Courtice.

Why: Activities include:

- Guided tours to our control room to view the waste pit and see the “claw”.
- Interactive waste sorting games.
- Activity books and colouring pages.
- Stickers, temporary tattoos, photo opportunities, and button making.
- Meet the staff and have your questions answered by our team.
- **Informational displays.**

Note: No pre-registration is required. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Accessible parking and access will be available

Oct. 7.2024 Durham Notice:

Region of Durham News

Join us at the Durham York Energy Centre for our upcoming family-friendly events

Whitby, Ontario – Durham Region residents are invited to bring their children to the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC) for a **free** public event on Friday, October 25 and Friday, November 15 [REDACTED]

When: Friday, October 25 and Friday, November 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Durham York Energy Centre at 1835 Energy Drive in Courtice.

Why: Activities include:

- Guided tours to our control room to view the waste pit and see the “claw”.
- Interactive waste sorting games.
- Activity books and colouring pages.
- Stickers, temporary tattoos, photo opportunities, and button making.
- Meet the staff and have your questions answered by our team.

Note: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. No pre-registration is required. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Accessible parking and access will be available.

For more information, please visit durham.ca/WasteEvents.

The two notices above are crafted to create the impression that the DYEC “transforms” waste materials into something positive without also providing sufficient details for readers to know whether that is true or not.

These two notices fail to advise readers that the DYEC IS a major source of air pollution AND is Durham’s single largest source of corporate GHG emissions.

The notice doesn’t state where testing reports and other DYEC documents could be accessed.

Will the tour leaders/speakers mention that the non-hazardous household waste burned is converted to gases emitted through the stack, some of which are toxic, carcinogenic, respiratory irritants, thus polluting air, land and water, of which contaminants only a tiny fraction is monitored continuously?

Will the tour speakers advise attendees that Durham ships ash residues laced with toxics to landfills in the U.S. and southwest Ontario?

Will tour leaders and/or Durham staff mention that they applied to burn yet more garbage just three years after start up, an increase from 140,000 to 160,000 tpy?

Will the tour speakers mention that the DYEC 2023 Soil Test Results show dioxins and furans loadings higher than predicted? See Slide 13 of Wendy Bracken's Oct. 2. 24 PowerPoint to Works Committee, something that Durham staff should have brought to the attention of Works Committee and Council. See: <https://pub-durhamregion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=5163>

Greenwashing & Inappropriate Statements in staff report 2024 INFO 55 re DYEC Spring Source Test

On October 2nd at Works Committee, I stated concerns about Works staff language in their report about the Spring Compliance Stack test results and in their report 2024 INFO 55 repeated use of the word "safe. Those statements are inaccurate, not supported by evidence and misleading.

This is a concern because some Durham waste staff routinely use similar language in different settings to leave impression all is well with DYEC testing.

See Slides 3 & 4 my PowerPoint to Works Committee for examples of other misleading claims that I cited at: <https://pub-durhamregion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=5160>

At October 2nd Works meeting I delegated about the "issues" Durham had with their spring compliance source test, which were not referenced in the Durham staff report 2024-INFO-55 which can be found in the consultant's reports attached.

See INFO 55 Attachment 1, page 2: <https://pub-durhamregion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=5158>

Extract:A second issue developed during the repeat test as steam production on Boiler 2 started to decline. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] when steam production achieved approximately 90% of the target (33.6 thousand kilograms per hour (kg/h)).

So basically, the DYEC could not make it through a three four-hour stack test with without a process upset and stopped measuring during the 16-minute test pause were not measured? Isn't that kind of like cheating? Is MECP okay with this nonsense?

There were also stack testing issues described in 2024 INFO 17 about the Fall Compliance Source Test: See Ausenco Attachment 2 page 2 at: <https://pub-durhamregion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=3705>

Extract: *Source tests for dioxin and furans for both Units 1 and 2 are typically run concurrently. However, it was necessary to take Unit 2 offline due to plugging of the feed chute for Boiler 2. The timing of this incident prevented Unit 2 from being tested concurrently with Unit 1. Unit 1 was tested on September 21st and 22nd , while Unit 2 was tested on October 3rd and 4th , 2023.*

I really hope that Council AND the MECP Minister and staff copied with this letter are paying close attention to these concerns, which again relate to dioxins and furans emissions which can result in adverse human health and environmental impacts.

Greenwashing DYEC's GHGs and Durham's GHGs reporting

I delegated to Durham Council last April that the DYEC GHGs staff reported to you in 2024 COW 12 are different than what reported to Ontario and NPRI and also that the DYEC annual GHGs are increasing.

See my April 24, 2024 PowerPoint at: <https://pub-durhamregion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=4020>

Also, given Bill C-59, will amendment(s) be required to the Durham's Host Community Agreement with Clarington, which is referred to in Report 2024 COW 1. Would Durham require Clarington Council to engage in misleading greenwashing about the DYEC? (Obviously this is something Clarington needs to sort out as well.)

From page 3 of Durham's 2024-COW-1: <https://pub-durhamregion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=2998>

Through the negotiations associated with the development of the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC), Durham Region and the Municipality of Clarington signed a Host Community Agreement in 2010 which included agreement by Clarington to "strongly encourage and promote development within the Clarington Energy Business Park and other areas of Clarington to utilize district heating and cooling provided by the energy from waste (EFW) Facility".

Sources of low carbon heat are in proximity to planned higher density transit-oriented mixed-use development within the Courtice MTSA, including the DYEC and the Courtice Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP).

The DYEC Produces Dirty Power Subsidized by Ontario Ratepayers

Some of you would have recently seen the BBC article from last week, which reinforced many of the concerns residents have brought forward to Durham council over many years, both before and post approval.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cp3wxgje5pwo> **Burning rubbish now UK's dirtiest form of power**

See Energy Justice in the US: **Trash Incineration More Polluting than Coal**

<https://www.energyjustice.net/incineration/worsethancoal#:~:text=Trash%20incinerators%20are%20the%20dirtiest,per%20unit%20of%20energy%20produced>

Extract:

Trash incinerators are the dirtiest way to make electricity by most air pollution measures. Even with air pollution control equipment, trash incinerators emit more pollution than (less controlled) coal power plants per unit of energy produced. Coal power plants are widely understood as the most air-polluting energy source, but few realize how much worse trash incinerators are for air quality.

To make the same amount of energy as a coal power plant, trash incinerators in 2018 released 65% more carbon dioxide (CO₂), as much carbon monoxide, three times as much nitrogen oxides (NO_x), five times as much mercury, nearly six times as much lead and 27 times more hydrochloric acid (HCl).

How will Durham describe the power produced at the DYEC and in light of Bill C-59?

What Actions Will Durham Region Take to Comply with Bill C-59?

Have Durham staff and Council been briefed and do they fully understand Durham's obligations under Bill C-59?

Since the earliest days of the first EA through to recent Works staff reports, we have heard responses to councillor, advisory committee questions and read staff reports that included statements that at times misrepresented, minimized and/or dismissed concerns about the adverse impacts of burning of garbage.

Without providing any evidence, Works staff have repeatedly stated that burning garbage is better than landfill, though ignoring that burning means you need a landfill for the ash, and as if there were no better ways of addressing waste.

You can watch to EFW WMAC September 24th meeting and the Works Committee October 2nd meetings as just two recent examples how concerns continue to responded to after the passing of Bill C-59.

On a related note, see the recent complaint about Nuclear industry greenwashing, another form of power production that Durham has made greenwashing statements about. [https://www.ccnr.org/Competition Bureau submission Oct 15 2024.pdf](https://www.ccnr.org/Competition_Bureau_submission_Oct_15_2024.pdf)

What action(s) will Durham take to ensure that NO PUBLIC DOLLARS are expended on DYEC and other greenwashing?

Who will vet Durham's waste related educational materials, presentations to schools and when hosting DYEC or other tours, to ensure they are accurate and not greenwashing?

When would the Durham and DYEC websites be updated to ensure they comply?

Who will vet Durham staff reports/memos/plans to ensure they no longer contain greenwashing language?

Conclusion and Request

Of immediate concern, who is going to vet the tour leader/staff presentations/ "Information Material" and caution staff about their responses to the public's questions at the October 25th DYEC tour?

I urge Chair Henry, Durham Councillors and Senior Management to consider the many changes that Durham might be required to implement to comply with Bill C-59.

I respectfully request that Council advise of actions to address greenwashing and Bill C-59 and do so via a staff report that appears on a public agenda.

Thank you for your attention.

Linda Gasser

Whitby, Ontario

Email: gasserlinda@gmail.com

Cc: Elaine Baxter Trahair, Durham CAO

Jason Hunt Durham Legal

Ramesh Jagannathan Durham Commissioner of Works

Andrew Evans, Durham Director Waste

B. Goodwin, Durham Commissioner of Corporate Services

Sandra Austin, Durham Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives

York Region Council c/o York Clerks

Erin Mahoney , York Region CAO

Mayor Adrian Foster & Clarington Council c/o Clarington Clerks

Jamil Jivani, Durham MP

Todd McCarthy, Durham MPP

Hon. Andrea Khanjin Minister MECP Ontario

Dr. Rachel Fletcher MECP Director Central Region

Katherine O'Neill, MECP Director Environmental Assessment Branch

Celeste Dugas, MECP Durham York District Office

Durham Clerks: please distribute this letter to Durham's:

Energy from Waste, Waste Management Advisory Committee

Energy from Waste Advisory Committee

Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 8, 2024

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:30 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: T. Barrie, Clarington
Z. Cohoon, Member at Large, Chair
R. Death, Whitby
N. Guthrie, Ajax
D. Risebrough*, Member at Large, Vice-Chair, left the meeting at 8:35 PM
H. Schillings, Member at Large
M. Shiers, Durham Region Federation of Agriculture
B. Smith, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair
M. Somerville, Member at Large
T. Watpool, Brock

Also

Present: J. Neal*, Regional Councillor Alternate
***denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: B. Hulshof, Uxbridge
G. O'Connor, Member at Large
J. McKay, Durham Farm Fresh
D. Stevenson, Oshawa
N. Swain, Scugog
G. Taylor, Pickering
W. Wotten, Regional Councillor

Staff

Present: A. De Vos, Program Specialist, Department of Planning and Economic Development
A. Janes, Project Manager, Transportation Design, Works Department
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
M. Scott, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
L. Talling, Manager, Agricultural & Rural Economic Development, Department of Planning and Economic Development

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

H. Schillings requested that the minutes of the September 10, 2024 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting be amended under Other Business Item 7. A) to remove the words “DAAC members” and replace it with “farmers”.

Moved by T. Watpool, Seconded by T. Barrie,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, as amended, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. **Presentations**

A) Larissa Fenn, Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA) Ports – Port of Oshawa Grain Export Terminal Update

Larissa Fenn, HOPA Ports, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Port of Oshawa Grain Export Terminal Update.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- HOPA is one of 17 Port Authorities in Canada
- Managing Working Waterfronts on the Canadian Great Lakes
- Regional Economic Impact
- Opportunities Growing in Agri-Food
- Ontario Grain Expo
- Port of Oshawa Export Development
- Surfacing and Road Works
- \$3.5M Dredging Investment
- Grain Terminal – FWS
- What’s New?
- Now Accepting Export Loads
- Reducing Congestion & Drive Time
- Outlook
- We Need Your Feedback!

L. Fenn responded to questions with regards to the different coloured flags noted on slide 2 of the presentation; the current seaway-depth at the Oshawa terminal; how the seaway-depth will be maintained on an ongoing basis; where the saltation comes from into the Oshawa terminal; whether an operator has been selected; the number of vessels that go through Oshawa versus Hamilton; what Oshawa’s capacity would be for vessels per year; whether moving soybeans from Oshawa to Hamilton, and returning to Oshawa with soy meal is possible; and best time of year to close the entrance to the Oshawa terminal for road work.

Discussion ensued with regards to incorporating operational recommendations into the new facility; and different commodities that might be able to use the Port of Oshawa.

B) Ron Trewin and Andrew Janes, Region of Durham Works Department – Regional Roads Capital Program

Ron Trewin, Retired Senior Project Manager, and Andrew Janes, Project Manager, Region of Durham Works Department, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Regional Roads Capital Program.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Overview of Presentation
- Budget Overview – Roads & Infrastructure
- 2023 Accomplishments
 - Service Improvements
 - Customer Service
- 2024 Road Projects
 - Brock Road (Reg. Rd. 1) from Reg. Rd. 5 to 0.2km north of Uxbridge/Pickering Townline Road, Pickering
 - Simcoe Street (Reg. Rd. 2) from 0.6km south of River Street to Saintfield Road, Scugog
 - Myrtle Road (Reg. Rd. 5) from Dagmar Road to west limit of Ashburn, Whitby
 - Shirley Road (Reg. Rd. 19) from Simcoe Street to 0.5km east of Graham Road, Scugog
 - Regional Highway 2 from Ovens Road to East Townline Road, Clarington
 - Regional Highway 47 from 0.9km east of Reg. Rd. 30 to west of Reg. Rd. 21, Uxbridge
 - Grandview Street North (Reg. Rd. 3) from Hwy 407 to Columbus Road E. and Columbus Road E. from Grandview Street N. to Townline Road N., Oshawa
 - Farewell Street (Reg. Rd. 56) from Harbour Road to Bloor Street, Oshawa
 - Regional Road 3 from Townline Road to Enfield Road, Oshawa/Clarington
 - Taunton Road (Reg. Rd. 40) from east of Townline Road to west of Enfield Road, Clarington
 - Zephyr Road (Reg. Rd. 13) from Concession 3 (Reg. Rd. 39) to Concession 4, Uxbridge
- Proposed 2024 Structures Replacement / Rehabilitation Projects
- 2024 Vision Zero Program
- Proposed 2024 Traffic Programs
- Proposed 2024 Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Bus Rapid Transit Projects
- Planned 2024 Road Tenders Funded from Previous Year Budget

- Transportation and the Agricultural Community
- Road Standards
- Continuing to Construct Roundabouts to Improve Road Safety
- Concerns About Guiderails Squeezing the Road
- Excess Soils Filling Sites Adjacent to the Road
- Excess Soils to Fill a Low Area to Improve Farming
- Slope Flattening for Road Safety Improvements
- Road Closures for Bridge Replacement
- More Road Standard Improvements
- Major Future Projects

R. Trewin and A. Janes responded to question with regards to when Shirley Road is being paved; why Saintfield Road is not able to have widened paved shoulders; whether drainage work will be considered for Highway 2; how paving standards are determined for different roads that are used by heavy gravel trucks; half load restrictions for Farewell Street; consultation with lower tier municipalities regarding traffic light installation; how people get to bus stops in the middle of the road for bus rapid transit locations; standards for shoulder paving when widening a road; why there is a roundabout being installed at Courtice Road and Taunton Road; when the bridge on Saintfield Road is being closed; and how to incorporate the main entrance into a farm to be more accessible for large farm equipment.

Discussion ensued with regards to drainage from roads into ditches and farm fields; increase in water loads in recent years; and criteria for installing bike lanes on Regional roads.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the agenda be altered to consider Item 5. F) 2024 Farm Tour Recap, next.

5. Discussion Items

F) 2024 Farm Tour Recap

D. Risebrough thanked Committee members and staff for their support and help with the tour.

D. Risebrough advised that given the last-minute changes to the venue and agenda, there was a great turnout and positive feedback was received.

M. Scott stated that 131 people attended the event. He further advised that the feedback received was positive and he will send the survey results to Committee members.

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

L. Talling provided the following update:

- The North Durham Agriculture-Related and On-Farm Diversified Uses (OFDU) project draft recommendations prepared by the consultant

have been received and feedback from the project team of municipal staff has been provided. This week there will be a meeting to walk through test cases to test out the proposed new process and policy.

- There will be an update provided to Committee members at the November meeting and staff are aiming towards providing a presentation to the 3 northern township Councils next year.

L. Talling suggested the formation of a subcommittee to work on the toolkit for the North Durham Agriculture-Related and On-Farm Diversified Uses (OFDU) project and bring forward any recommendations to this Committee. The Committee agreed that M. Sommerville, H. Schillings and Z. Cohoon will comprise the subcommittee.

A. De Vos provided the following update:

- The Apple Value Chain campaign is underway to raise public awareness and education to highlight the Durham Region “apple from farm to plate” with five businesses being highlighted on the apple’s path.
- The Gather at the Farm campaign is a tourism focused campaign for Durham Farm Fresh members and other farms offering special events this fall.
- This week is Ontario Agriculture Week and is focusing on highlighting all the good work that farms do.
- A number of agriculture career initiatives have taken place in the last few weeks. There was a career fair last week, and staff spoke at the International Plowing Match and are looking into providing a bus tour for students to learn about equipment technician and farm equipment mechanic careers.

Discussion ensued with regards to connecting with dealers for farm equipment; how transportation will work for students to get to where the farm equipment is located; and bringing farm equipment into schools for learning opportunities.

B) Agricultural Advisory Committee Clarington Update

T. Barrie advised there was no Clarington Agricultural Advisory Committee update at this time as there was no meeting in September.

C) Durham Farm Fresh Update

J. McKay was not in attendance to provide the Durham Farm Fresh Update.

D) Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance Update

M. Scott advised that at the last meeting of the Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance there was discussion around the new Provincial Planning Statement and a roundtable discussion regarding the changes from Bill 23.

A. De Vos advised Halton Region no longer has an agricultural advisory committee and will no longer have their agriculture economic development and planning staff in the new year.

Discussion ensued with regards to potential changes in Durham Region with the new Provincial Planning Statement in place; and the importance of work being done by the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee now and in the future.

E) Durham Region Federation of Agriculture Update

M. Shiers advised that at the last meeting of the Durham Region Federation of Agriculture there was discussion on accidents happening on farms and the response time of first responders with the difficulty having to go off road. There was a motion put forward to draft a letter regarding offroad vehicles for farmers or accidents on trails.

M. Shiers further advised that the Durham Federation of Agriculture and Ontario Federation of Agriculture annual general meeting is being held on October 15, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Greenbank United Church.

F) 2024 Farm Tour Recap

This item was considered earlier in the meeting. [See page 4 of these minutes]

6. Information Items

A) Durham Region Apple Adventure

Durham Region Apple Adventure was provided as a link to the agenda and received.

B) Gather at the Farm Poster

Gather at the Farm Poster was provided as Attachment #3 to the agenda and received.

C) Clarington – LGS-032-24 – Exotic Pet By-law – Backyard Chickens

Correspondence from the Municipality of Clarington regarding LGS-032-24 – Exotic Pet By-law – Backyard Chickens dated September 25, 2024 was provided as Attachment #4 to the agenda and received.

In response to a question from the Committee, M. Scott advised Clarington was provided with the motion that DAAC does not support permitting chickens to be kept in urban and rural settlement areas.

D) City of Pickering – Resolution on Water Testing Services for Private Drinking Water

Correspondence from the City of Pickering regarding Resolution on Water Testing Services for Private Drinking Water was provided as Attachment #5 to the agenda and received.

Councillor Neal advised that he pulled the correspondence and it was placed on the October 3, 2024 Health and Social Services Committee agenda. Direction was given at that meeting that the correspondence be forwarded to this Committee. Councillor Neal requested that the correspondence be received for information and endorsed by Committee members.

Moved by H. Schillings, Seconded by B. Smith,
That the Correspondence from the City of Pickering regarding a resolution passed at their Council meeting held on June 24, 2024, endorsing the resolution by the Town of Amaranth regarding Water Testing Services for Private Drinking Water, be received for information, and endorsed by the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

7. Other Business

A) Endorsements

R. Death raised a question with regards to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee endorsing a company for a new process facility. Z. Cohoon advised that endorsements are not done by the Committee. M. Scott proposed requesting endorsement from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture or Grain Farmers of Ontario.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 starting at 7:30 PM.

9. Adjournment

Moved by B. Smith, Seconded by M. Shiers,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham Agricultural Advisory
Committee

K. Smith, Committee Clerk

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 17, 2024

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, October 17, 2024 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:00 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: J. Cuthbertson, Member at Large, Chair
B. Baszyk, Brock
O. Chaudhry, Pickering
B. Foxton, Uxbridge
K. Lui, Member at Large
K. Murray, Clarington, Second Vice-Chair
M. Nasir, Ajax attended the meeting at 7:03 PM
Councillor Shahid
D. Stathopoulos, Oshawa
B. Widner, Whitby
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: G. Carpentier, Scugog, First Vice-Chair
P. Cohen, Post-Secondary Student

Also

Present: Councillor Wotten
***all visiting Councillors participated electronically**

Staff

Present: S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
A. Luqman, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department
I. McVey, Manager, Sustainability, Office of the CAO
***all staff members participated electronically**

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by K. Murray, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That the agenda for the October 17, 2024, Durham Environment and
Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) meeting, be approved.

CARRIED

3. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by D. Stathopoulos,
That the minutes of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory
Committee meeting held on Thursday, September 19, 2024, be adopted.
CARRIED

5. **Presentations**

A) Impacts of Road Salt on the Environment and Infrastructure, Anne-Jan Groen, Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee (OEAC)

Anne-Jan Groen, Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee (OEAC), provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the impacts of road salt on the environment and infrastructure.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- The Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee & Road Salt Working Group
- Road Salt Impacts
- Road Salt Legislation
- Taking Action
- Are You Using Too Much Winter Road Salt?
- Road Salt: Less is More
- Taking Action

A-J Groen asked that DECAC consider starting a road salt working group that would mirror the mandate of OEAC's salt working group that aims to educate people about the long-term risks to infrastructure and the environment, and ensure that Durham Region is following best practices when it comes to road salt application and storage.

A-J Groen responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether they have connected with the Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition; why municipalities are not using sand instead of salt on their roads and what can be done to promote the use of sand; whether they would present at the Scugog Environmental Advisory Committee (SEAC); and what additives are in road salt.

A. Lugman advised that she would follow-up with A-J Groen to seek permission with respect to sharing their slideshow with the Committee.

6. Items for Discussion

A) Update on DECAC Resolution from its June 20th meeting, re: Bill 199 (Ontario Building Code Amendments)

A. Luqman advised that DECAC's resolution was approved by the Planning & Economic Development Committee and subsequently endorsed by Regional Council on September 25, 2024.

Discussion ensued regarding what else could be done by DECAC to further support its resolution. I. McVey advised that he would follow-up with Regional Chair Henry along with Councillor Shahid to see if there is anything further that can be done.

B) Fall Pollinator Plots on Regional Property Update (A. Luqman)

A. Luqman advised that the Scugog Works Depot was selected as the pilot site for the fall pollinator project and she presented a few progress photos to the Committee. She further advised that seeding will occur in a couple weeks, and that a second plot will be placed on the right-of-way located on the other side of the depot (Lakeridge Road).

C) Fall Durham Climate Forum (DCF) Update (DCF Subcommittee)

A. Luqman advised that the Fall Durham Climate Forum will take place Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 10:30 AM – 2:00 PM at Durham Regional Headquarters. She advised that DECAC will be taking part in three aspects of the forum: the "Art from Garbage" contest for students where winners will be selected by people's choice; a passport activity where an individual will need to attend at least 8 of the 22 booths in order to receive a swag bag from DECAC; and finally, a DECAC booth.

A. Luqman advised that K. Lui and M. Nasir will be managing DECAC's booth but encouraged other members to attend as well.

I. McVey advised that P. Cohen will be participating on the discussion panel in the morning to represent a youth perspective.

D) Upcoming Engagement Opportunity – Durham Greener Homes Weather Ready Program Enhancements (S. Logan)

In the absence of S. Logan, I. McVey advised that staff are looking to extend the Durham Greener Weather Ready Program and that they will be organizing some community engagement that will include an online survey early next week. He advised that he will share the survey link with A. Luqman once it's live. He also advised that information sessions will take place later in November and that he will be looking to engage DECAC in those meetings.

E) Durham Greener Homes Heat Pump Seminar Series (I. McVey)

I. McVey advised that the Durham Sustainability Office will be hosting a hybrid workshop series that will provide information on Durham Greener Homes Heat Pumps that will begin on October 29, 2024, in the Township of Scugog.

F) DAAC Farm Tour Update (Members in Attendance)

B. Basztyk, O. Chaudhry, K. Lui and G. Carpentier attended the DAAC Farm Tour on September 26, 2024.

B. Basztyk commended DAAC for the unexpected last minute change of venue where the farm tour was set to take place and converting the farm tour into an educational event. He encouraged all DECAC members to attend next year's tour.

G) Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) Annual Conservation Awards (Members in Attendance)

A. Luqman advised that G. Carpentier was selected as the 2024 recipient of the George R. Richardson Award of Honour as part of this year's LSRCA Conservation Awards that took place on October 8, 2024. She shared a video with the Committee that highlighted G. Carpentier's accomplishments. She stated that K. Lui, B. Widner, and O. Chaudhry were in attendance to help celebrate G. Carpentier's achievement.

7. For Information

A) Information Report #2024-INFO-58: Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessments; Extreme Heat Report

A copy of Report #2024-INFO-58 of the Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health along with a link to the report: Climate Change and Health in Durham Region: Assessing the Impacts of Extreme Heat; and a link to the webpage, was received.

B) Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee (OEAC) Fall Film Night

A copy of the news alert regarding the Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee (OEAC) Fall Film Night was received.

J. Cuthbertson advised that the OEAC Fall Film night will take place on October 24, 2024, at 6:30 PM at the Regent Theatre.

C) Draft Durham Region 2025 Strategic Plan: Links to Memo and the Draft Plan

A copy of the memo regarding Durham Region's 2025 Draft Strategic Plan and the draft Durham Region 2025 Strategic Plan were received.

D) Minutes of the September 24th, 2024, Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee Meeting

A copy of the minutes of the September 24, 2024, Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee meeting was received.

E) Minutes of the September 10th, 2024, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Meeting

A copy of the minutes of the September 10, 2024, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting was received.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the subject of backyard chickens should remain under the purview of public health and epidemiologists.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That Information Items 7. A) to 7. E) inclusive, be received for information.

CARRIED

8. Other Business

A) DECAC's Annual Workplan

M. Nasir raised with the Committee that the old version of DECAC's Annual Workplan is still on the regional website. A. Luqman advised that the website can be updated but noted that the 2025 annual workplan will be coming to next month's meeting for review and approval.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, November 21, 2024, starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

J. Cuthbertson, Chair, Durham Environment
and Climate Advisory Committee

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk