


November 4, 2025

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority  
120 Bayview Parkway  
Newmarket, ON  
L3Y 3W3

VIA EMAIL: [info@lsrca.on.ca](mailto:info@lsrca.on.ca)

 Corporate Services Department <b>Legislative Services Division</b>	
Date & Time Received:	November 04, 2025 3:14 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Support for LSCRA Winter Road and Parking Lot Maintenance

Please be advised that the Town of New Tecumseth Council passed the following resolution at their meeting of November 3, 2025:

**Be It Resolved That** the presentation from Don Goodyear, General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management and Bill Thompson, Manager, Watershed Plans and Strategies be received;

**And Whereas** the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority have identified a rise in chloride concentrations measured in Lake Simcoe due to the use of winter salt on roads and parking lots;


**And Whereas** these concerns were outlined in the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors Report BOD-076-25 regarding recommendations for winter road and parking lot maintenance;

**And Whereas** the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors passed the attached motion regarding Winter Road and Parking Lot Maintenance at their meeting dated July 25, 2025;

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved That** the Town of New Tecumseth supports the recommendations of the LSRCA in the attached motion;

**And Further That** this resolution be circulated to Lake Simcoe watershed municipalities and Lake Simcoe watershed members of Provincial Parliament.

Yours truly,

  
Pamela Slowleigh  
Manager, Legislative Services / Deputy Clerk

Encl: July 25, 2025 Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors Meeting – Excerpt from Minutes - Item 2 BOD-04-25 – Recommendation for Winter Road and Parking Lot Maintenance

cc. **Lake Simcoe watershed municipalities:**

City of Barrie, [cityclerks@barrie.ca](mailto:cityclerks@barrie.ca)  
City of Kawartha Lakes, [clerks@kawarthalakes.ca](mailto:clerks@kawarthalakes.ca)  
City of Orillia, [clerks@orillia.ca](mailto:clerks@orillia.ca)  
County of Simcoe, [clerks@simcoe.ca](mailto:clerks@simcoe.ca)  
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**Lake Simcoe watershed MPP's:**

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## **Item 2 BOD-04-25 – Recommendation for Winter Road and Parking Lot Maintenance**

Moved by: S. Harrison-McIntyre

Seconded by: I. Lovatt

**BOD-076-25 Resolved That** Staff Report No. 24-25-BOD regarding recommendations for winter road and parking lot maintenance be received and the following resolution adopted:

**Whereas:** Chloride concentrations measured in Lake Simcoe have steadily increased since the 1970's and, if unchecked, could exceed the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Chronic Guideline by approximately 2069; and

**Whereas:** Chloride concentrations in urban tributaries are routinely above that Chronic Guideline, occasionally above the Acute Guideline and have recently exceeded the concentration of ocean water in one urban tributary, and continue to increase everywhere due to the use of winter salt on roads and parking lots; and

**Whereas:** These concentrations are lethal to some species of fish and benthic invertebrates, and decreasing the amount of winter salt use throughout the watershed is critical to the near-term health of urban tributaries and long-term health of Lake Simcoe; and

**Whereas:** A barrier to the reduction of salt application for parking lots and walkways is the scarcity of trained and certified winter maintenance contractors; and

**Whereas:** A more substantial barrier to the reduction of salt application for parking lots and walkways is concern over liability; and

**Whereas:** Businesses in the winter maintenance sector are seeing insurance and legal costs escalate to the point where many have failed, and some property owners have been unable to find winter maintenance contractors; and

**Whereas:** The limited liability framework in practice in New Hampshire is based on the Canadian Smart About Salt guidelines and has been successfully defended in the higher courts.

**Therefore, be it resolved that** the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors requests that the Attorney General of Ontario and the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks establish and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the Province and municipalities on the best courses of action to protect freshwater ecosystems and drinking water from the impacts of salt pollution; and

**Further That** the Board of Directors requests that technical standards and a Provincial regulatory framework be established that limits liability for winter maintenance contractors following best practices to ensure public safety, business sustainability, and environmental protection; and

**Further That** municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed lead by example by ensuring staff and/or winter maintenance contractors that maintain municipal parking lots obtain certification through the Smart About Salt program as a condition of working for the municipality; and

**Further That** this resolution, along with Staff Report No. 24-25-BOD, be circulated to Lake Simcoe watershed municipalities and all current members of Provincial Parliament; and

**Further That** municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed implement best management practices for municipal roads management; and

**Further That** municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed collaborate with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority on an outreach campaign to raise awareness of this issue, manage expectations from the public regarding salt usage, and inspire positive action. **Carried**