



**GEORGINA**

## Council Highlights

Town of Georgina Communications Division  
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### **Georgina Town Council Feb. 15**

#### **Pigeons in residential areas**

Council received the report addressing a resident request that the Town's Animal Control By-law be amended to allow residents to raise pigeons in residential areas where they are currently not permitted. The report addressed the issues and options associated with allowing limited numbers of pigeons to reside in residential areas. Council approved the report recommendation for a public consultation process, and staff were directed to report on the results of the public consultation process, and provide options and recommendations.

#### **Town of Georgina and Town of East Gwillimbury Joint Fire Services Assessment – final report**

Council received the [report](#) and approved the recommendations. Georgina and East Gwillimbury announced a joint fire services assessment in 2022 which included an update to both municipal Fire Master Plans, options for service efficiencies, and a review of the potential to consolidate the two departments. The study included extensive stakeholder engagement and concluded that both communities are well served by their existing fire and emergency services departments. Although the study does not recommend consolidating the two fire departments at this time, the report identifies opportunities for shared services with a focus on shared fire fleet maintenance.

#### **Green and Inclusive Community Building Grant Program**

Council received the report regarding the Green and Inclusive Community Building Grant Program. It is accepting grant applications for small and medium retrofit projects of community spaces to fund energy efficiency and accessibility improvements of these buildings, providing up to 80 per cent in cost-share funding. Council directed staff to submit an application for funding and approved a budget for the Sutton Arena retrofit project for \$1.175 million with up to \$940,000 (80 per cent of the project budget) to be paid by the grant program and the remainder to be funded by the Town through the facilities repair and replacement reserve, subject to grant approval.

#### **Motion from Councillor Dave Neeson on funding for Lake Simcoe**

Whereas Lake Simcoe is one of Ontario's largest watersheds, home to First Nations since time immemorial, and situated in the growing Greater Toronto Area communities of Simcoe County, York Region, Durham Region, and the cities of Barrie and Orillia;

Whereas the watershed faces threats due to eutrophication, largely from phosphorus runoff and other contaminants into the lake and its tributaries;

Whereas the lake is a significant source of drinking water, as well as being integral for local recreation, tourism, agriculture and other key economic drivers;

Whereas the previous Conservative federal government funded a "Lake Simcoe Clean-up Fund" of \$65 million over 10 years between 2007-2017, but that fund has not been renewed by the current government;

Whereas during the 2019 federal election, the Hon. Chrystia Freeland MP committed \$40 million over five years towards Lake Simcoe;

Whereas during the 2021 federal election, the Liberal Party of Canada committed to "Implement a strengthened Freshwater Action Plan, including an historic investment of \$1 billion over 10 years. This plan will provide essential funding to protect and restore large lakes and river systems, starting with the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System, Lake Simcoe...";

Whereas the Conservative Party of Canada also committed to re-funding the Lake Simcoe Clean-up Fund in the 2019 and 2021 general elections with an investment of \$30 million over five years;

Whereas further to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change's mandate letter, which directs the Minister to "...establish a Canada Water Agency and implement a strengthened Freshwater Action Plan, including a historic investment to provide funding to protect and restore large lakes and river systems, starting with the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System, Lake Simcoe...";

Whereas the 2022 federal budget included a new "Freshwater Action Fund" with a one-year commitment of \$19.6 million to help watersheds across the country, including Lake Simcoe, but any details and next steps are still to be announced;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Georgina:

1. Supports federal funding for Lake Simcoe that represents a significant percentage of the overall Freshwater Action Plan Fund, with funding and details beginning in the 2023 that would honour Minister Freeland's commitment to Lake Simcoe of \$40 million over five years;
2. Asks that such federal funding be used to undertake:
  - a. Shoreline mitigation and restoration, including in the tributaries of the Holland River, Maskinonge River, Black River, Pefferlaw River and the Holland Marsh;
  - b. The assistance of the federal government to achieve up to or more than 40 per cent high-quality natural cover;
  - c. Projects to ameliorate contaminated sites in the watershed such as the Thane Smelter Site in the Town of Georgina;
  - d. Upgrades to help retrofit and improve the environmental efficiency of municipal infrastructure such as wastewater and stormwater facilities;
  - e. Purchasing and conservation of more natural heritage sites such as forests and wetlands under the auspices of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA); and

3. That a copy of this resolution, along with a letter from the Mayor, be sent to the federal Minister of Finance; the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change; the President of the Treasury Board; the Members of Parliament for York-Simcoe, Newmarket-Aurora, Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte, Barrie-Innisfil, Simcoe North, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock, and Durham; and to all Lake Simcoe-region municipalities and the LSRCA, with a request for their endorsement."

**Closed session**

In regards to Closed Session Item 17.1(a) on the agenda under Section 239(2) (c), of the Municipal Act, being a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board, Jackson's Point,

That Council receive the staff update and that staff be directed to proceed as directed with respect to investigating the purchase of property in Jackson's Point.

**Additional Council Information**

Comprehensive minutes of Georgina Town Council Meetings, which detail the full list of Council decisions, are available under [Agendas and Minutes](#) on the Town website once they have been ratified by Council.