



GEORGINA

External Briefing Note

Subject: Update on Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition's 'Protect our Plan'

To: Mayor and Council

From: Simone Lopreiato-Weinstein, Program Manager
Olga Lawton, Manager, Corporate Strategy and Special Projects

Date: September 2, 2026

Briefing:

On June 3, 2026, Council received a delegation from Jonathan Scott, Executive Director of the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition (RLSC), regarding the Coalition's report titled "[Protect Our Plan: From Good Goals to Practical Progress](#)." The report identifies actions needed across all levels of government to address challenges affecting Lake Simcoe, including phosphorus pollution and excessive road salt use. Council endorsed the report and directed staff to provide a briefing note outlining actions already taken by the Town that support the report's recommendations ([Resolution No. C-2026-0145](#)).

The RLSC report recognizes the important role municipalities can play in advancing watershed priorities and notes that continued progress will require sustained provincial and federal investment, science-informed approaches and access to data.

The report also specifically identifies the Town of Georgina as an example of municipal action, highlighting the Town's work in stormwater management and phosphorus reduction, shoreline stabilization, salt mitigation, invasive species management and implementation of its Climate Action Plan.

Town of Georgina Actions Supporting the RLSC Report

The Town has undertaken a number of initiatives that align with the principles and recommendations identified in the RLSC report.

1. Phosphorus Reduction, Stormwater Management and Climate Resilience

- The Town continues to invest in its Asset Management Plan to maintain and upgrade stormwater infrastructure and levels of service, while seeking provincial and federal funding opportunities to support infrastructure improvements.
- The Town has implemented stormwater management initiatives, including low-impact development (LID) features and other measures designed to reduce runoff and associated phosphorus loading to Lake Simcoe.
- The Town's updated Development Design Criteria includes climate-resilient requirements for new development, including LID measures.

- The Town continues to implement shoreline stabilization and green infrastructure initiatives that contribute to erosion prevention and protection of water quality.
- Through its Climate Action Plan, the Town has identified the health of Lake Simcoe as a priority environmental and climate-risk consideration.

2. Road Salt Reduction and Environmental Protection

- Council endorsed [Resolution No. C-2025-0077](#) on April 2, 2025, calling on the provincial government to pursue liability reforms related to road salt pollution.
- The Town continues to implement its enhanced Salt Management Plan, including the use of rock-salt alternatives, electronic spreader controllers and other best management practices to reduce salt use and its environmental impacts.
- The Town continues to undertake invasive species management activities, including the removal of phragmites from stormwater infrastructure, ponds and tributaries, as well as aquatic weed collection.

3. Land Conservation, Stewardship and Community Engagement

- The Town supported the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's acquisition of the Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve, an approximately 890-acre property containing forests, grasslands, agricultural lands and wetlands. The Town is also participating on the Advisory Committee supporting development of a Comprehensive Stewardship Plan for the Preserve.
- The Town is partnering with the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition on the “Love Our Lake” campaign to educate residents about actions they can take to reduce phosphorus and protect Lake Simcoe.

4. Advocacy, Partnerships and Funding

- The Town has advocated for increased provincial and federal funding to support Lake Simcoe environmental initiatives and to replicate and scale up successful municipal pilot projects, including through Resolution Nos. [C-2021-0051](#), [C-2023-0096](#) and [C-2026-0059](#).
- Town staff have engaged with the Canada Water Agency to advocate for additional investment in Lake Simcoe projects following the allocation of funding through the Freshwater Action Plan Fund.
- The Town participates in the Lake Simcoe Water Soldier Working Group, which is advocating for increased federal investment in Lake Simcoe watershed priorities.

5. Land Use and Transportation

- The Town supports compact and mixed-use development through applicable Secondary Plans, incentives such as the [Additional Residential Unit \(ARU\) incentive program](#) and streamlined development processes.
- The Town continues to work with York Region Transit to strengthen connectivity within Georgina, to surrounding communities and to GO Transit through conventional, On-Request and Mobility On-Request paratransit services. In September 2025, enhancements to Route 50 – Queensway were implemented to respond to growing demand and improve connections to East Gwillimbury, Newmarket and the broader York Region transit network. The Town has also advocated for expanded regional rail service through Resolution [No. C-2025-0265](#) requesting a Northlander train stop in Georgina.

Conclusion

The Town's existing initiatives demonstrate alignment with a number of the priorities identified in the RLSC report, particularly in the areas of stormwater management and phosphorus reduction, road salt mitigation, land and watershed stewardship, climate resilience, community education, and advocacy for provincial and federal investment.

The RLSC report recognizes that municipalities can advance watershed priorities through local leadership, while also emphasizing that meaningful progress requires sustained investment and action by the provincial and federal governments. The Town will continue to work with the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, other municipal partners and other levels of government to support the long-term health and protection of Lake Simcoe.