



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Thursday, October 12, 2017
7:00 PM
Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS
4. INTRODUCTION OF ADDENDUM ITEMS
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
6. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF
7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
 - (1) Pages 1 - 7
Minutes of the meeting held on September 14, 2017.
8. DELEGATIONS/SPEAKERS
9. PRESENTATIONS
 - (1) Markham – Waste Program, Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager Waste & Environmental Management for the City of Markham.
10. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS ON THE AGENDA
11. COMMUNICATIONS
 - (1) Pages 8 - 9
Human antidepressants building up in brains of fish in Niagara River (referred by the Waterways Advisory Committee)
 - (2) Page 10 - 12
Ontario Making Communities and Attractions More Bike-Friendly

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- (1) The York Region we want, update if available.
- (2) Cooking event to spread awareness about edible invasive species, next steps, choose a date, organize tasks of members.
- (3) 2017 Budget Review and 2018 Budget requests.
- (4) Joint GEAC and GAgAC meeting topics.

12. CLOSED SESSION, IF REQUIRED - *None*

13. MOTION TO ADJOURN

- (1) Next Meeting Next Meeting:
Date: Thursday, November 9, 2017 (Joint meeting)
Time: 7:00 PM
- (2) Motion to Adjourn



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday, September 14, 2017
7:00 PM
Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

The following Committee members were in attendance:

Katie Roberts, Chair
Councillor Dave Neeson
Councillor Charlene Biggerstaff
Debbie Molnar
Mary Mallany

The following Committee members were absent with regrets:

Sally Krigstin
Kelly Mingram
Hailey Punt

The following staff member was present:

Sarah Brislin, Committee Services Coordinator

3. INTRODUCTION OF ADDENDUM ITEMS – *None*

(1) Annual Election of Chair

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Charlene Biggerstaff, Seconded by Mary Mallany

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2017-0019

That the agenda for the Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of September 14, 2017, be approved with the following addendum item:

1. Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

Carried.

Committee member Katie Davis nominated Councillor Dave Neeson for the position of Chair.

The Committee Services Coordinator made three further calls for nominations. There were no additional nominations.

Councillor Dave Neeson accepted the nomination and was pronounced Chair by acclamation.

Committee member Mary Mallany nominated Debbie Molnar for the position of Chair.

The Committee Services Coordinator made three further calls for nominations. There were no additional nominations.

Debbie Molnar accepted the nomination and was pronounced Vice Chair by acclamation.

It was noted Councillor Dave Neeson will assume the role of Chair at the next regular meeting.

5. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF - *None*
6. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
 - (1) Minutes of the meeting held on June 8, 2017.

Moved by Debbie Molnar, Seconded by Mary Mallany

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2017-0020

That the minutes of the Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held on June 8, 2017, be adopted.

Carried

7. DELEGATIONS/SPEAKERS - *None*

8. PRESENTATIONS - *None*
9. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS ON THE AGENDA - *None*
10. COMMUNICATIONS
 - (1) Chris Ballard Ontario's New Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
 - (2) Conserving Wetlands to Help Fight Climate Change
 - (3) Recognition of Deputy Mayor/Regional Councillor Wheeler
 - (4) Ontario Continuing Fight Against Invasive Species

The Committee requested staff send agenda item 10.4 to the Georgina Waterways Advisory Committee and bookmark for invasive species campaign.

- (5) Ontario Fighting Climate Change with New Electric School Buses

It was noted that the deadline to apply is by October 13th for the funding for the Electric School buses.

Moved by Councillor Dave Neeson, Seconded by Debbie Molnar

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2017-0021

That the Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee refer the program to the York Region District School Board

Carried.

- (6) Ontario Protecting the Environment and Fighting Climate Change

The Committee discussed the tree planting program. The Committee requested the information be referred to staff to investigate and that the information be put on the committee webpage.

- (7) Ontario Recognizes Outstanding Achievements in Environmental Protection
- (8) Ontario Strengthening Protections for Water Resources
- (9) Ontario Supporting Municipalities in Fighting Climate Change

The Committee requested the information be referred to Operation staff to for review

(10) Ontario Supporting Projects to Reduce Greenhouse Gas

The Committee requested the information be referred to Operation staff to for review

Moved by Mary Mallany, Seconded by Debbie Molnar

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2017-0022

That the Georgina Environmental Advisory receive the following Communication Items:

1. Chris Ballard Ontario's New Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
2. Conserving Wetlands to Help Fight Climate Change
3. Recognition of Deputy Mayor/Regional Councillor Wheeler
4. Ontario Continuing Fight Against Invasive Species
5. Ontario Fighting Climate Change with New Electric School Buses
6. Ontario Protecting the Environment and Fighting Climate Change
7. Ontario Recognizes Outstanding Achievements in Environmental Protection
8. Ontario Strengthening Protections for Water Resources
9. Ontario Supporting Municipalities in Fighting Climate Change
10. Ontario Supporting Projects to Reduce Greenhouse Gas

Carried.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- (1) RESOLUTION NO. C-2017-0318 (From June 7, 2017, Council meeting)

That Council receive correspondence from Jim Baine requesting an anti-littering signage pilot project on Duclos Point Road, that the request be referred to the Chief Administrative Officer to determine staff resources to create a successful litter reduction strategy for the entire Town, to review the current fees associated with littering and associated enforcement, and that the matter be referred to the Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee for its assistance and to the Communications Manager for social media engagement.

Moved by Councillor Neeson, Seconded by Charlene Biggerstaff

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2017-0023

The GEAC supports an anti-littering campaign approves of raising the set fine for littering up to the statutory limit. Provided the Town provides an adequate number of waste receptacles at Town facilities and parks.

Carried.

Moved by Mary Mallany, Seconded by Debbie Molnar

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2017-0024

That a letter be sent to York Region to request adequate placement of waste receptacles along the bus routes at the bus stops.

Carried.

The Committee requested the resident be advised of the recommendations.

- (2) Plastic bag ban (resident request for Town to investigate bag ban). Attachments includes articles on other Canadian Municipalities that have considered a plastic bag ban.

The Committee was advised the concern came to Council on the 13th. Staff have been directed to prepare a report on taxation tool or a ban on plastic bags.

The Committee discussed the articles and the possibility of a ban on bags.

Moved by Mary Mallany, Seconded by Debbie Molnar

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2017-0025

That the Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee recommend Council direct staff to investigate the possibility of a zero waste goal policy similar to that of Markham's zero waste program and include consideration of a plastic bag ban.

Carried.

- (3) Municipal GHG Challenge Fund (Deadline November 14).

Moved by Debbie Molnar, Seconded by Mary Mallany

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2017-0026

That the Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee recommend Council refer to the appropriate staff for consideration.

Carried.

- (4) The York Region We Want.

Councillor Neeson advised he is waiting to hear back from former Councillor Dave Szollosy to see if anyone wants to present regarding the request. Councillor Neeson offered to follow up on the email.

- (5) 2018 schedule.

February 8, 2018

March 8, 2018

May 10, 2018

June 7, 2018

September 13, 2018

October 11, 2018

Note: November 22, 2018, is the joint GEAC and GAgAC meeting (on the 4th Thursday of the month).

- (6) 2017 Budget Review and 2018 Budget requests.

Moved by Councillor Dave Neeson, Seconded by Debbie Molnar

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2017-0027

That the Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee approve the registration cost of up to \$150.00 to be allocated from GEACs professional development fund for Committee member Mary Mallany to attend the OIPC Conference October 10th and 11th 2017, in Ottawa.

Carried.

The Committee requested the Budget Review be brought back to the October meeting for further consideration.

- (7) Cooking event to spread awareness about edible invasive species, next steps, choose a date, organize tasks of members.

The Committee requested the item be considered at the next meeting.

12. CLOSED SESSION, IF REQUIRED - *None*

13. MOTION TO ADJOURN

(1) Next Meeting Next Meeting:
Date: Thursday, October 12, 2017
Time: 7:00 PM

(2) Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Mary Mallany, Seconded by Councillor Charlene Biggerstaff

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2017-0028

That the Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee September 14, 2017, meeting be adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Carried.

Katie Davis,
Chair

Sarah Brislin, Committee
Services Coordinator

Human antidepressants building up in brains of fish in Niagara River

Scientists concerned over health of fish species as wastewater treatment fails to remove drugs

By Susan Noakes, [CBC News](#) Posted: Sep 04, 2017 3:47 PM ET Last Updated: Sep 04, 2017 5:53 PM ET

Researchers studying fish from the Niagara River have found that human antidepressants and remnants of these drugs are building up in the fishes' brains.

The concentration of human drugs was discovered by scientists from University at Buffalo, Buffalo State and two Thai universities, Ramkhamhaeng University and Khon Kaen University.

Active ingredients and metabolized remnants of Zoloft, Celexa, Prozac and Sarafem — drugs that have seen a sharp spike in prescriptions in North America — were found in 10 fish species.

Diana Aga, professor of chemistry at University at Buffalo, says these drugs are found in human urine and are not stripped out by wastewater treatment.

Could affect fish behaviour

"It is a threat to biodiversity, and we should be very concerned," Aga said in a [release from the university](#).

"These drugs could affect fish behaviour. We didn't look at behaviour in our study, but other research teams have shown that antidepressants can affect the feeding behaviour of fish or their survival instincts. Some fish won't acknowledge the presence of predators as much."

The Niagara River, which carries water from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, is already under stress, with [reports this summer of untreated wastewater](#) released into the river.

'Fish are receiving this cocktail of drugs 24 hours a day, and we are now finding these drugs in their brains'- *Diana Aga, study author*

The research, [published in the journal Environmental Science & Technology](#), found levels of antidepressants in fish brains that were several times higher than levels in the river itself, indicating that the chemicals are accumulating over time.

The study set out to look for a variety of pharmaceutical and personal care product chemicals in the organs and muscles of 10 fish species: smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, rudd, rock bass, white bass, white perch, walleye, bowfin, steelhead and yellow perch.

Antidepressants stood out as the major problem.

Rock bass had high concentrations

The rock bass had the highest concentrations of antidepressants, but several fish had a medley of drugs in their bodies.

Aga said she did not believe the chemicals were a threat to humans, as people do not usually eat fish brains. However, she was concerned about the health of fish species who are continually subjected to an influx of chemicals, as well as the delicate balance among species.

Aga said wastewater treatment plants have not kept up with the times in attempting to remove drugs from their effluent.

Between 1999-2002 and 2011-14, the number of U.S. residents using antidepressants rose by 65 per cent, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

- [Drinking water contaminated by excreted drugs a growing concern](#)
- [Study finds traces of cocaine, other illegal drugs in Ontario drinking water](#)

Wastewater treatment focuses on killing disease-causing bacteria and on extracting solid matter but not on removing chemicals that might be found in human urine, Aga said.

"These plants are focused on removing nitrogen, phosphorus, and dissolved organic carbon but there are so many other chemicals that are not prioritized that impact our environment," she said. "As a result, wildlife is exposed to all of these chemicals. Fish are receiving this cocktail of drugs 24 hours a day, and we are now finding these drugs in their brains."

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Sarah Brislin

From: Ontario News <newsroom@ontario.ca>
Sent: September-25-17 9:07 AM
To: Sarah Brislin
Subject: Ontario Making Communities and Attractions More Bike-Friendly



News Release

Ontario Making Communities and Attractions More Bike-Friendly

September 25, 2017

Province Investing in Bike Parking at Destinations Across Ontario

Ontario is making it easier for people to ride their bikes to their favourite local tourism and cultural attractions with new funding for bike parking and storage. This investment is part of [Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan](#) and is funded by proceeds from the province's cap on pollution and carbon market.

Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport Eleanor McMahon was at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto today to launch the new program, which will help people stay active, choose clean transportation and discover Ontario's tourism and cultural attractions.

The funding will support bike parking options like rings and racks, as well as indoor lockers and bike storage rooms.

Making neighbourhoods more cycle-friendly helps reduce greenhouse gas pollution created by cars. It also supports the goals of [Tour by Bike](#), the province's first cycling tourism plan.

Promoting cycling and active transportation is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario is investing \$1 million this year from its carbon market to fund this project. All Ontario's tourism and culture agencies and attractions will be eligible to apply.
- This investment is a commitment under Ontario's five-year Climate Change Action Plan which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 15 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, 37 per cent by 2030 and 80 per cent by 2050.

- In 2015, there were 1.7 million cycling visits in Ontario. While visiting Ontario, cyclists spent \$497 million.
- About 1.5 million people in Ontario ride their bikes at least once a week during the spring, summer and fall, and many cycle year-round.
- In 2013, the government released [#CycleON: Ontario's Cycling Strategy](#), a 20-year vision to encourage the growth of cycling and improve safety.
- In addition to today's announcement, Ontario recently announced a \$2.5-million investment to construct new, [secure bike storage lockers](#) at GO Transit stations and car pool lots across southern Ontario.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Ontario's tourism and culture agencies and attractions](#)
- [Cycling in Ontario](#)
- [Climate Change Action Plan](#)
- [Discover Ontario by bike](#)

QUOTES

"As an avid cyclist, I know how important it is to have the right facilities in place to keep our bikes safe and secure. This investment will help make our communities more cycling-friendly and encourage more people to leave their cars at home and ride their bikes instead. Strengthening cycling opportunities in Ontario helps to promote active living while also boosting the local economy and reducing greenhouse gases."

— *Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport*

"Our government is creating a better and safer commuter cycling network across the province. Today's announcement will encourage people to lead active lifestyles and choose cycling as their preferred mode of transportation. Cycling is a healthy, sustainable way to get around – whether you live in an urban setting and cycle to work or school, or ride for pleasure exploring the beautiful trails across the province – and we are committed to adding more cycling infrastructure across Ontario."

— *Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation*

"We are making it easier for more people in Ontario to fight climate change by getting out of their cars and onto their bikes. Transportation is the single-largest source of greenhouse gas pollution in the province, and

this investment from our carbon market is helping us move towards a clean, fair and prosperous economy."

— *Chris Ballard, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change*

"A city's greatness is measured, in part, by the access people have to their institutions. This new initiative will make cycling a safer and more convenient way to access the ROM and will better link the museum, and other tourist and cultural attractions, to the communities they serve."

— *Josh Basseches, Director and CEO, Royal Ontario Museum*

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