



Town of
East Gwillimbury

Fernando Lamanna, BA

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December 7, 2011

Denis Kelly
Regional Clerk
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 6Z1

**REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE**

FILE NO. -1 P42

Dear: Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk

For your information and records, at its regular meeting held on December 5, 2011, the Municipal Council of the Town of East Gwillimbury enacted as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the email from H. Barcza, regarding York Region's Proposed New Sewage Treatment Plant and the Effect on our Drinking Water and Lake Simcoe, be received; and

THAT the Municipal Council of the Town of East Gwillimbury forward this correspondence to the Region of York for their information and consideration.

If you have any further questions feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

Fernando Lamanna, BA
Deputy Clerk
Legal and Council Support Services



"Our town. Our future"

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York Region's proposed New Sewage Treatment Plant

Date: November 28, 2011

LSRCA

Attention:

Address:

Re: York Region's Proposed New Sewage Treatment Plant and the Effect on our Drinking Water and Lake Simcoe

To Whom it may concern,

We are writing to inform you, and to express our concerns about the new proposed Sewage Treatment Plant that York Region is planning. We are terrified about its effect on our Drinking Water and the general state of Lake Simcoe.

As residents of Bradford for 38 years, we read the newspapers. We have seen no information concerning this Sewage Treatment Plant being presented to the residents of Simcoe County. We have contacted a great number of people in our community who are also concerned about the impact of this mega sewage treatment plant on their water supply which comes from Innisfil.

We spoke with Bruce Hoppe, the Manager of Development Planning for Simcoe County. He said that the Municipalities, in Simcoe County have jurisdiction over the Environmental Concerns. He was unaware of this plan. York Region has not informed Simcoe County residents. Bruce Mackell, the Director of Planning of Simcoe County, did know of the plan but was waiting for the results of the Environmental Assessment to come back. That answer doesn't allow the Public to be informed of the Potential Risks before the approval. Other alternatives like decentralized Sewage Treatment Plants could be considered. The project has already been started with the installation of giant sewage pipelines

in Northern York Region. Why are the sewage pipelines being installed before the Environmental Assessment is completed?

In 2010, York Region changed their plans, after 10 years of planning, to send future developments' sewage to Lake Ontario. They now plan to build a Mega Sewage Treatment Plant on the East Holland River to service 500,000 people from upper Aurora, Newmarket, and East Gwillimbury. The Sewage Treatment plan is called Upper York Sewage Solutions. (uyssolutions.ca) The expectant growth in the area will use more than 47 million litres of water a day.

This discharge into Lake Simcoe will be immense and any spills into Lake Simcoe will be catastrophic. Much of this water will come from Lake Ontario. The artesian wells that are supplying some of the water, can't even meet the present population's

needs. Much of the future growth, will totally depend on Lake Ontario water.

Presently there are 15 sewage treatment plants on Lake Simcoe servicing about 500,000 people. This present sewage load has already killed off a large per cent of the fish population of Lake Simcoe. There is a build-up of sludge over the bottom

of the whole lake. There are new algae over growths occurring even into the end of October. If we add the sewage of a half million people we might as well pave over

the whole lake. Who will be responsible for all this increase in contaminants coming out

of this sewage treatment plant? This will lead to increase in cancer in the people drinking this polluted water.

The "2008 Lake Simcoe Protection Plan" states that

"Extensions to or expansions of Great Lakes or Lake Simcoe water or sewage services to settlements that are not connected is prohibited. The ECO strongly encourages the Ontario government to ensure that development not

York Region's proposed New Sewage Treatment Plant leapfrog into the Lake Simcoe watershed and add additional stress to this already fragile ecosystem. This problem could be remedied in one of two ways by the Province: the Greenbelt should be expanded into Simcoe County or the LSPP should be amended to address this concern."

In 2010, The Ministry of Environment handed this Upper York Sewer Project down as a made-in-York solution. It obviously affects Lake Simcoe and Simcoe County more than York Region alone. The change of plans was precipitated by the earlier construction schedule, phased implementation, lower costs and extending the life of the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plan in the lower York Durham Sewage System.

Aurora and Newmarket receive their drinking water from Lake Ontario. Lake Ontario water is not in the watershed of Lake Simcoe. We should not be dumping this Lake Ontario water into Lake Simcoe. Barrie, Innisfil, Bradford, Orillia, Sutton, Keswick and East Gwillimbury should all worry about their water supply being affected. Recent studies have shown a dramatic increase in cancers that have been linked to the high hormone levels in the drinking water. This new mega sewage treatment plant will double the sewage output into Lake Simcoe.

Lake Simcoe has a problem with eutrophication dealing specifically with Nitrogen and Phosphorus loading. Due to the terminal nature of the lake, Lake Simcoe does not flush out like Lake Ontario. Lake Ontario has little problem with eutrophication and phosphorus loading. This further eutrophication will negatively impact Lake Simcoe's water quality, negatively impact the fisheries, the flora, the fauna and the benthics. It will impact recreational water and our drinking water.

Will the work and money spent on cleaning up the water and improving the fisheries in Lake Simcoe be destroyed by the proposed sewage output of 500,000 people? It does not make any sense why the Municipalities of Aurora or Newmarket don't create smaller sewage treatment plants within their own Municipalities rather than dumping it into our water supply directly. We are aware that in the long run this water would reach Lake Simcoe, but at least it would be filtered through the soil in the ground. Why use Mega Projects and not more efficient local decentralized wastewater treatment systems? (When Bigger isn't better: Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems, from ECO Issues). When communities are responsible for their own waste and drinking water, they tend to be more careful and aware of the effect. There are many studies done in the USA about the benefits of communities looking after their own waste waters.

Phosphorus is not the only concern. Fish have been dying. What about the resident's drinking water? Thirty per cent of PPCP's and EDC's cannot be filtered out even with the newest membranes. The planners admit that they cannot filter out these chemicals through the state of the art membranes. These chemicals and hormones will remain, like dioxin, permanently affecting Lake Simcoe. Lake Ontario does flush out through the St. Lawrence River.

We are asking for a Peer Review Assessment of the Project to be carried out by an independent and objective Environmental Consulting firm. We are also requesting that funding be given to this Peer Review. We don't trust an Environmental Assessment that is carried out by York Region alone. They have everything to gain and nothing to lose with this project.

Could you please address this issue?
Could you please respond to our concerns?

Sincerely,

H. Barcza and L. Barcza