



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA

Proud History - Progressive Future

January 2, 2012

Bryan MacKell, Director of Planning
County of Simcoe
1110 Highway 26
Midhurst, ON L0L 1E0

Re: Proposed Sewage Treatment Plant – York Region

Ramara Council passed the following motion at their regular meeting held December 19, 2011:

THAT the letter from B. McLary dated November 27, 2011 and H. Barcza dated November 28, 2011 regarding York Region's proposed sewage treatment plant be received and forwarded to the County of Simcoe Planning Department for information;

AND THAT we request York Region to make a presentation to all Simcoe County municipalities including Barrie and Orillia, who abut Lake Simcoe about the impact this proposed plant will have on the Lake;

AND THAT this motion be circulated to Simcoe County and its lower tier municipalities that abut Lake Simcoe and to the Cities of Barrie and Orillia;

AND THAT we advise York Region we strongly oppose the proposed sewage treatment plant.

CARRIED.

I trust the above is self-explanatory, however if you require further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

Janice McKinnon, AMCT
Municipal Clerk

JM/clw

c.c. Denis Kelly, Regional Municipality of York
Dawn McAlpine, City of Barrie
Gayle Jackson, City of Orillia
Doug Irwin, Township of Oro-Medonte
John Leach, Town of Innisfil
Patricia Nash, Township of Bradford-West Gwillimbury

November 27, 2011

RECEIVED

NOV 30 2011

Mayor and Members of Council
Town of Georgina
26557 Civic Centre Road
R. R. #2
Keswick, ON L4C 3G1

TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA

Dear Mayor Grossi and Members of Council:

Re: Lake Simcoe Water Reclamation Centre

As resident and home owner in the Town of Georgina for the past 22 years, we are very concerned with the impact that the "proposed" Lake Simcoe Water Reclamation Centre will have on the future health of Lake Simcoe. I attended the information centre held at the Stephen Leacock Centre on November 16, 2011 and left the meeting with many concerns about the proposed centre.

It was stated at the meeting by representatives of the Upper York Sewage Solutions Project Team that the rationale for the proposed Lake Simcoe Water Reclamation Centre is to facilitate the future growth of East Gwillimbury, Aurora and Newmarket. The sewage allocation for these areas has already been planned and approved by the Region of York and did not include a Lake Simcoe Water Reclamation Centre. It appears that what the Region is attempting to do is reallocate the approved sewage allocation from East Gwillimbury, Aurora and Newmarket to municipalities further south including Markham, Vaughan and Richmond Hill resulting in a topping-up of already approved sewage allocation for these communities.

Concerns raised at the meeting included the redirection of additional treated sewage into Lake Simcoe which will result in further increases of phosphorus and other elements being diverted into the Lake. Representatives of the Upper York Sewage Solutions Project Team proposed to offset these increases by so called offsets which would include storm water treatment improvements and removing existing residential septic systems. Improved storm water management facilities and removing existing residential septic systems will be a natural process of the redevelopment of these areas and would happen regardless of whether the Lake Simcoe Water Reclamation Centre was built or not.

November 27, 2011

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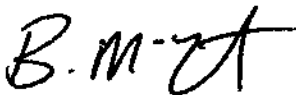
Perhaps a greater concern is that a Lake Simcoe Water Reclamation Centre will open the doors for future growth allowing for all growth north of the Oak Ridges Moraine being redirected into Lake Simcoe and not just the current planned growth in East Gwillimbury, Aurora and Newmarket.

How does the proposed Lake Simcoe Water Reclamation Centre fit into the Lake Simcoe Protection Act, the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and the Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Reduction Strategy?

If Regional Council moves to approve the Lake Simcoe Water Reclamation Centre, then there must be benefits to all bordering municipalities of Lake Simcoe. This should include funding by those benefiting from the redirection of sewage allocation to the north to improve existing storm water and sewage treatment plants to all municipalities surrounding Lake Simcoe.

The unanimous support of Georgina Council and the Councils of all municipalities bordering Lake Simcoe to "not support" the proposed Lake Simcoe Water Reclamation Centre and to make their concerns known to the Region of York Council when this matter comes before them for approval, is requested and appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Bucky McLarty
112 Cooks Bay Drive
Keswick, ON L4P 1M3

cc: Region of York Council
Council, Brock Township
Council, Town of Bradford-West Gwillimbury
Council, Town of Innisfil
Council, City of Barrie
Council, Township of Oro-Medonte
~~Council, Township of Ramara~~
Region of Durham Council
Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority
Julia Monroe, MPP, York – Simcoe
Peter Van Loan, MP, York – Simcoe
Jim Bradley, Minister of the Environment

Jennifer Connor

Subject: FW: York Region's Proposed New Sewage Treatment Plant
Attachments: York Region's proposed New Sewage Treatment Plant.txt

-----Original Message-----

From: Helen Barcza [mailto:helenbarcza@rogers.com]
Sent: November 28, 2011 9:48 AM
To: ramara@township.ramara.on.ca
Subject: York Region's Proposed New Sewage Treatment Plant

Hello Ramara,

Here is a copy of our Concerns on the effect of this proposed new Mega Sewage Treatment Plant on Lake Simcoe and our concerns.

Please present this to your Town Council and to your staff so that action might be taken to make local municipalities be responsible for their own sewage and not dump into Lake Simcoe.

Yours Sincerely,
Helen Barcza

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. Bryan 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 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,

Helen Barcza and Larry Barcza

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Best regards,

Helen

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This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content by VPNetworks MailScanner1, and is believed to be clean.