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THANE SMELTER SITE

Regional Councillor Wheeler brought forward a proposed resolution on this matter.
Received and referred to staff.

(The proposed resolution is attached to this report.)

IN SUPPORT OF YORK REGION Protecting an Important Municipal Drinking Water Source by supporting the acquisition of the Thane Smelter Site, Town of Georgina.

WHEREAS, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment [MOE] filed a Control Order to prevent the Thane Smelter in the Town of Georgina from stockpiling slag, there were some 31,000 tonnes of slag stockpiled by 1997. MOE ordered its removal in year 2000. Subsequently, the owner provided a financial audit that demonstrated that he had no assets with which to do so.

WHEREAS, a 2007 XCG consultant's report, funded by MOE, recorded that on-site surface water contained arsenic, chromium, aluminum, copper, iron, lead, silver, vanadium, zinc, phosphorus, pH, and phenols. Furthermore, off-site surface water contained aluminum, chromium (total) copper, lead, vanadium, zinc, phosphorus and phenols.

WHEREAS, the site involves a Regionally Significant Woodland and a Provincially Significant Wetland which flows, via the Maskinonge River, to Cook Bay at Lake Simcoe the source of municipal drinking water for more than 20,000 people living at Keswick in the Town of Georgina.

WHEREAS, due to climatic variability, we are experiencing extreme weather events more frequently in the Regional Municipality of York [the Region]. These events exponentially increase the risk of rapid movement of the contaminants referred to in the foregoing down-stream.

WHEREAS, an 8-year effort, lead by the Town of Georgina and the affected community, to have MOE clean-up the contaminated Thane Smelter site has fallen on deaf ears.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Region support the

Town of Georgina to acquire the Thane Smelter site, and take immediate steps to prevent its contamination from entering the municipal drinking water source of Cook Bay, Lake Simcoe.