

Province pledges \$24M for phosphorus recycling facility

By MIKE ANDERSON

The province will provide \$24 million over the next three years to help build a state-ofthe-art phosphorus recycling facility in the Holland Marsh.

The funding announcement was made in Bradford on April 20 by David Piccini, Minster of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and York-Simcoe MPP Caroline Mulroney.

The facility could reduce phosphorus discharge from the Holland River into Lake Simcoe by up to 40 per cent and remove between 2.5 to 12 tonnes of phosphorus from Lake Simcoe per year.

While the 2009 Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP) has a phosphorus load target of 44 tonnes, phosphorus levels continue to rise, primarily due to increased residential and commercial growth.

The LSRCA reported that phosphorus levels spiked at 113 tonnes in 2017-18, the most recent reporting period.

High phosphorus levels can lead to excessive weeds and toxic algae which deplete oxygen levels in the lake, threatening fish habitats and impacting water quality.

"Our government is saying "yes" to building this new innovative facility because we recognize that keeping our local

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



YORK -SIMCOE MPP CAROLINE MULRONEY AND GREG BOWMAN

Keswick gets a new long-term care home

By MIKE ANDERSON

York-Simcoe MPP Caroline Mulroney announced on Friday the Ford government is providing funding to bring 192 long-term care beds to Keswick.

The funding will kick-start the construction

of a new long-term care home by Rykka Care Centres, which owns 11 long-term care homes and 18 retirement communities in Ontario.

The Keswick Rykka Centre will be managed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4





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PHOSPHORUS CONT. FROM PAGE 1

waterways safe and clean will help protect Lake Simcoe, its watershed, and the communities that call it home," said Minister Piccini in a media release.

"By investing in a new phosphorus recycling facility in the Holland Marsh, our government is taking the necessary action to ensure that Lake Simcoe remains healthy and can be enjoyed by residents and visitors for generations to come," added MPP Mulroney.

The new provincial funding represents 60 per cent of the project's total cost of \$40 million, the other \$16 million is being provided through a federal infrastructure fund.

When the federal funding was announced in 2020, the project was billed as a joint partnership between York Region and the federal government, with the Region agreeing to provide the \$24 million.

But the Region appeared to back away from that commitment last year after the province declined to greenlight the Upper York Sewage Solution (UYSS), a new sewage treatment plant that would service future growth in Aurora, Newmarket and East Gwillimbury.

The Region argued that funding for the phosphorus recycling

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER DAVID PICCINI

facility was contingent on the province's approval of UYSS.

But that didn't sit well with two local councillors, Bradford's Jonathan Scott and Georgina's Dave Neeson. Last fall, they began lobbying behind the scenes to drum up support for the phosphorus recycling facility.

They met with officials in Ottawa, at Queen's Park and staff at York Region, as well as local mayors, councillors, MPs and MPPs.

They also encouraged local councils to pass motions which called on the federal and provincial governments to work collaboratively to move the recycling facility forward.



"There was at least one councillor in every watershed municipality who stepped up to the plate to introduce a version of the motion that Dave and I kicked off last fall," Scott told the Post.

"This project is an important piece of environmental mitigation infrastructure that provides the single largest reduction of phosphorous runoff into our lake that's ever been proposed," he said.

"And with the province stepping up to fund the remaining 60 per cent of the capital costs, I'm hoping it's full steam ahead to deliver this project."

"This announcement is an absolute game-changer for the health of Lake Simcoe and its entire watershed," Neeson added.

"We put a lot of work into it. And usually, things don't happen that quickly, nor do you get that level of collaboration."

"It's the first time we've been able to walk something like this around the watershed, and we got every single watershed municipality to pass it."

Both Scott and Neeson believe a precedent has been set — that infrastructure, like the phosphorus recycling plant, should be tied to future growth.

"In a growing region like ours, when we talk about the infrastructure we need, it should include compensatory environmental infrastructure, as well as bridges, transit and servicing for condos and the like," Scott said.

"So we're setting a good precedent that we want to have sustainable development, including the environmental mitigation pieces of the puzzle."

While Minister Piccini said he expects the plant to be built within three years, there are still significant hurdles to overcome, including a possible jurisdictional issue.

The facility is anticipated to be built on the Holland River between Bradford and King, but the exact location is yet to be determined.

According to York Region Chair and CEO Wayne Emmerson, the plant's location could decide which jurisdiction builds and operates it, as the Holland Marsh cuts through both Simcoe County and King Township.

"It's fantastic news that the province is anteing up \$24 million. But they haven't told us who is actually going to be building it and who's going to run it," Emmerson said.

"I believe it's going to be put in King Township in York Region. But maybe the province will build it, or say Simcoe County run it and build it. We're willing to build it, but the province has to tell us."

"Now we have the funding; the next step is the EA and who will build it."



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LONG-TERM CARE CONT. FROM PAGE 1

by Responsive Management Inc. (RMI), a business unit of Responsive Group Inc.

"These beds are a key part of our government's \$6.4 billion commitment to build more than 30,000 net new long-term care beds by 2028," said MPP Mulroney at a media event held at Club 55 in Keswick on April 22.

"More than 4,700 new and 1,400 upgraded long-term care beds are in development, under construction, or have been recently completed in York Region and Simcoe County."

"This investment will help make sure that our seniors get the quality care they deserve. And it'll also help make life easier for our frontline workers who care for our residents."

"This is a significant milestone for the Keswick Georgina area and the broader long-term care system," added Greg Bowman, vice-president of development for Responsive Group Inc.

"New long-term care homes provide seniors and their families with increased access to much needed modern, safe, and comfortable homes."

"Our new Keswick home will be more residential in scale and feel, including wider hallways, more intimate dining rooms, more private and semi-private rooms and greater access to outdoor space for residents and their visiting families."

Bowman says the new Rykka Centre will cost \$70 million to build and employ 200 healthcare professionals.

Although the exact location was not disclosed, Bowman says it will be located near the Walmart Supercentre on Woodbine Ave., with construction slated to begin in 2023 and an estimated completion date of 2025.

While the 192 beds are new to Georgina, they are being moved



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from an existing facility in Toronto.

Still, they will double the amount of LTC beds in Georgina — adding to the 57 LTC beds at Cedarvale Lodge in Keswick, and the 119 LTC beds at River Glen Haven in Sutton.

According to the media release, these facilities will also be adding new beds -25 at RGH and 12 at Cedarvale.

Bowman says roughly half the 192 beds at the Rykka Centre will be designated basic, and the other half private. Basic rooms, which are semi-private, have a shared washroom. Private rooms have their own washroom.

According to the Ministry of Long-Term Care, the current maximum rate for long-stay basic is \$62.18 per day and \$1,891.31 per month. Long-stay private is \$88.82 per day and \$2,701.61 per month. These rates are standard in all long-term care homes across Ontario.

If residents don't have enough income to pay for a basic room, they may be eligible for a subsidy through the Long-Term Care Home Rate Reduction Program.

According to a Global News report, 5 out of 9 Rykka Centres in the GTA experienced COVID-19 outbreaks during the pandemic, resulting in 132 deaths. Among for-profit LTC home operators, only Sienna and Revera experienced more deaths, 295 and 239.

But Bowman says many tough lessons were learned, and the company has changed its practices to minimize the risk of infection. "We were hit very early in the pandemic before anybody really knew what was happening. We had our first cases in early March 2020, almost right away. So people didn't know anything at that point," he said.

"We've done a lot of looking at lessons learned and changed a lot of practices. We actually published a pandemic playbook that we provided to the entire Ontario long-term care sector."

While no LTC home can guarantee it won't experience an outbreak, Bowman says the design of its new homes will reduce its severity.

"Our new homes have this concept of a resident home area, which is 32 residents living in one area of the home. They have their own dining, activity, leisure and therapy spaces. So if something does happen in a home area, they're in a smaller subset, a smaller cohort, so there is more protection from infection," he said.

"We're also widening our hallways to allow for social distancing. And the rooms provide greater privacy and protection from whatever infection your neighbour might have."

"We've also done huge upgrades on air quality, including increasing the number of times we exchange first air. And every home now has an IPAC control person, whose job is to look after infection control measures."

Bowman believes the criticism levelled against for-profit LTC homes during the pandemic was unfair, pointing out that homes run by municipalities were also hit hard.

He believes the long-term care sector works best with a mix of public and private LTC homes.

He says smaller municipalities, like Georgina, don't have the tax base to build and operate new LTC homes. So, for-profit LTC homes help fill the gap.

"I don't see governments, provincial or municipal, funding the construction of new LTC homes. We're going to be funding this new building. Certainly, we are getting some funding from the province, but it's not covering even half the cost. So, the cost to the Ontario taxpayer, if the province was to take over all this development, would be immense."

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Question: What are the recent changes to the Non-Resident Speculation Tax?

Previously, the Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST) was a fifteen percent tax that applied to a non-resident's purchase or acquisition of a residential property located in the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region of Ontario.

As of March 30, 2022 the NRST has been increased to twenty percent. Additionally, as of that date, the NRST now applies to residential acquisition transactions in Ontario: it is no longer limited to the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region of Ontario.

However, the twenty percent tax may not apply in all cases. If the following transitional provisions are met, a foreign buyer would only have to pay a fifteen percent tax:

- 1. If the buyer had an Agreement of Purchase and Sale or an assignment of an Agreement of Purchase and Sale entered into on or before March 29, 2022 and on or after April 21, 2017;
- The property must be conveyed to the purchaser, or the spouse of a purchaser, named in the Agreement of Purchase and Sale or assignment of an Agreement of Purchase and Sale; and
- 3. The property is of designated land located within the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region.

If all of the below criteria are met, than the additional NRST would not be payable by a foreign buyer:

- 1. If the buyer had an Agreement of Purchase and Sale or an assignment of an Agreement of Purchase and Sale, entered into on or before March 29, 2022;
- The property is conveyed to the purchaser, or the spouse of a purchaser, under the agreement of purchase and sale or a person, or the spouse of a person, to whom the agreement of purchase and sale was assigned; and
- 3. The conveyance is of land located outside the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region.

If you have any questions about the changes to the Non Residency Speculation Tax, give our office a call, and one of our lawyers would be happy to answer them.







COWPER-FUNG (C) AND STAFF HOLD STERILE KITS

Local fundraising campaign sends medical aid to Ukraine

By MICHELLE POIRIER

The Georgina Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic is helping to package and ship medical supplies to a hospital in Ukraine.

A Ukrainian-born Town employee, Olga Lawton, has been raising money via GoFundMe to purchase and send the muchneeded medical aid.

And with the help of GNPLC Clinic Director Beth Cowper-Fung and her staff, the first order was received, packaged and shipped out on April 5.

"This is an unjust war, where a lot of families were destroyed, kids were left orphans, many lives were lost, and the country is in urgent need of medical aid," said Lawton, who is a professional project manager in the Town's CAO office.

The GoFundMe has a current goal of \$10,000 after reaching its initial goal of \$5,000 in four days, with donations from Lawton's friends and colleagues, including Georgina Council and Town staff.

According to Lawton's GoFundMe page, funds donated

will purchase medical supplies and medications for the Vinnytsia City Clinical Emergency Hospital, located southwest of Kyiv, near the Romanian and Moldovan border.

Vinnytsia serves as one of the centralized hubs for medical hospitals and refugee support in Ukraine.

Some of the medical aid was donated by local businesses in Georgina.

Lawton said Michael Ramzy, owner of Sutton Apothecary, donated over \$1,000 worth of medications. They also received donations of disinfecting supplies from Kirsty King, executive director of the Learning Centre for Georgina.

Lawton is determined to keep raising funds through GoFundMe because the war has touched her personally.

"My entire family, childhood friends and former co-workers were impacted by the brutal invasion. Many of my family members were in Kyiv, including my only brother, who was in young kids," Lawton said.

"I felt the need to continue helping those impacted by the Canadian Armed Forces Reserve tragedy as much as I could. So, I got connected with a major medical hub in my hometown. They were in desperate need of medical supplies for treating wounded people and those who were fleeing the country."

Lawton said she was introduced to Cowper-Fung by Fire Chief Ron Jenkins, and Cowper-Fung and her team agreed to help by ordering the supplies requested by the Ukrainian hospital.

Cowper-Fung said the basic sterile kits they ordered come with tools, drapes and gauze, but they added suture threads, needles, gloves, cleaning swabs, tape and dressings to the kit.

"It is fully ready to use. A trained nurse, doctor or army medic could take this kit and sew up wounds that do not need

Irpin, with his wife and two internal dissolving stitches," she said.

> Cowper-Fung was formerly a medic, and she used her past field experience to put the kits together.

> "Donations have entirely funded it, so we will keep getting medical supplies as long as Olga keeps getting money," she said.

> Cowper-Fung said the hospital in Ukraine would like a defibrillator, but the only one they can find is \$13,000. Since that is currently out of their budget, they are working on getting them an automated external defibrillator (AED) with replaceable pads, which is less expensive.

As publication, of the GoFundMe has raised \$7.650. Lawton said she would continue raising money even if they reached the current goal.

You can donate at https:// gofund.me/1c743333.



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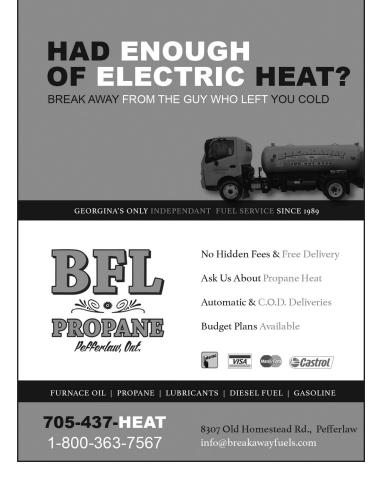
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Pefferlaw residents brace for decision on aerodrome

By MIKE ANDERSON

Sutton Airport Development Inc., which proposes building a civil aviation aerodrome in Pefferlaw, submitted its final summary report to Transport Canada on March 29.

Transport Canada has 30 days to review the report, so a decision is expected on or before April 28.

If Transport Minister Omar Alghabra decides not to comment, the aerodrome is automatically approved, and construction could proceed this summer.

However, if Minister Alghabra decides that the project is not in the public interest, the proposal is effectively dead in the water.

The final report, a whopping 592 pages, includes a summary of comments and objections received from interested parties, including residents. According to the report, the proponent received 123 comments from interested parties; 97 objected to the aerodrome; three expressed conditional support; two had objection; 21 requested no more information. The top three concerns raised where: 1) contaminated fill (mentioned 85 times); 2) Aircraft noise (mentioned 65 times); 3) Surface water pollution (mentioned 56 times). While residents repeatedly expressed concerns about the proponent's lack of consultation and their connections to the waste management industry – leading some to call the aerodrome a fill operation in disguise – those concerns have largely fallen on deaf ears at Transport Canada.

In a letter to PAR spokesperson Karen Wolfe, Transport Canada said it has no authority or jurisdiction over fill movement and environmental impacts.

"Please note that Transport Canada is not a land-use authority," the letter reads. "Aerodromes bringing in fill must continue to comply with the applicable federal Canadian Aviation Regulations. The Regulations do not address the bringing in of fill, the quantify of fill, the trucking operations, and other aspects of fill that may affect surrounding landowners."

Georgina Council, frustrated with Transport Canada's process, which allows a proponent to bypass municipal zoning bylaws and environmental protections, passed a resolution on April 13 calling on the federal government to review and update its aerodrome approvals legislation.

The resolution was forwarded to Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport, Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and several members of parliament, including York-Simcoe MP Scot Davidson.

Davidson told the Post that he had several off-line discussions with Minister Alghabra, and he is hopeful the Minister will reject the proposal.

"I have to be a believer. And I will be disappointed if I don't see a favourable outcome. It's just not in the public interest," he said.

Davidson, like Georgina Council, would also like to see the federal government reform its legislation governing aerodrome approvals.

He fears more municipalities could be targeted by fill operators and end up with aerodromes that become dumping sites, like Burlington, Tottenham and Greenbank. He wants municipalities like Georgina to have a bigger say in the approval process. But more importantly, he wants Transport Canada to filter out bogus applications.

"There has to be full disclosure and full transparency," he said. "They have to have merit. And they have to make sense."

Davidson would also like to see the federal government require proponents to post a performance bond before they're allowed to build an aerodrome.

"Why not have people post a bond if they're going to build an airport?"

"That way, you can't bring in a hundred thousand loads of fill and then wash your hands of it and walk away," he said.

"Well, you can. But your bond posted for \$20 million; we will take that."

"That way, you will filter out who's in the game and who's not."







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BLACK SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY

The Butterflyway Project is coming to Georgina

By MICHELLE POIRIER

Thanks to three local Butterflyway Rangers, Georgina is taking part in the David Suzuki Foundation Butterflyway Project.

The project is a volunteerled, Canada wide movement to grow the habitat for bees and butterflies by planting pollinator gardens with native wildflowers.

Since 2017, official Butterflyways have been established in 75 communities and neighbourhoods across Canada.

"Wild pollinators such as butterflies and bees are crucial to human survival. Climate change, development and widespread pesticide use are compromising their habitat and food sources. The Butterflyway Project aims to help people step up efforts to help pollinators find food and shelter," the David Suzuki Foundation website says.

Yulia Lasenko and Katie Di Tosto are working together as Butterflyway Rangers in Georgina to create 12 gardens in the area, and Judi Carr-Kartash is an independent Butterflyway Ranger in Georgina working on her own 12 gardens.

"The Butterflyway Project is hoping to cover Canada with patches of pollinator plants, so that butterflies and other pollinators have a safe path to navigate with host plants and food. Georgina wasn't on their map yet, so there wasn't a Butterflyway here and we decided to put one here, to put us on the map," said Lasenko, who is a naturopathic practitioner and operates Georgina Naturopathic in Jackson's Point.

Lasenko is looking for volunteers to help clean and plant the gardens, which vary in size. She said the garden cleaning will start soon and will involve removing invasive plant species, and then planting will begin around Victoria Day weekend.

If you can't volunteer for the project, she said there are still ways to help by creating your own gardens on your property.

"So much of the land is owned now, that it's important for land owners to steward their own land," she said.

"I want people in Georgina to join in and plant their own native plant garden too. I'm also willing to help people source the plants and help with design."

Lasenko said it is easy to source native plants in Georgina, as there is a native plant nursery in Pefferlaw, and the Zehrs Garden Centre in Keswick also sells native plants. Native Plant Nurseries in Pefferlaw is by appointment only. For more info visit www. nativeplantnurseries.ca.

"A lot of people have plants that they like, that are European, but they're not the best pollinator plants. An example I was thinking of are lilacs; people really like lilacs, but they're not native and, depending on the variety, may not produce the right mixture of nectar and pollen," she said. "There are good native substitutes, like the New Jersey Tea, which has very similar flowers to the lilacs, and the Woodland Phlox has a fragrance that's almost identical to the lilacs. If you have plants that you like, there are native alternatives."

To volunteer to help clean and plant the gardens you can reach Lasenko by email at contact@ georginanaturopathic.ca. To find out more about Butterflyways, visit www.davidsuzuki.org

COMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Club 55 - Spring Fling Dinner and Dance, Friday, May 13. Happy Hour is from 6 pm to 7 pm with Dinner at 7 pm. Catered dinner from Sammy's in Keswick. Dave Jones will DJ, and people are welcome to dance. Tickets are on sale now, available at Club 55-130 Gwendolvn Blvd. Keswick. (905) 476-9972. \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members, cash or cheque only. No refunds. And no table reservations for less than ten people. Must be 55 +

Georgina-Brock Garden Club: For the Love of Bees, Pefferlaw Lions Hall, Monday, May 9, 7:30 pm to 9 pm. Learn about bees, the dangers they face and their preferred food sources from local Beekeeper and owner of Hiveshare, Chris Campbell. 38 Pete's Lane, Pefferlaw. Tel: 905-715-2685. Email: gbgcinfonow@gmail.com

Huge Plant Sale, Pefferlaw Lions Hall parking lot, Saturday, May 14, 10 am to 2 pm. Come early for the best selection of perennials, vegetables, annuals, grasses, herbs and more. 38 Pete's Lane, Pefferlaw.

Shred It! For Hospice

Georgina - Georgina Ice Palace, Sat., April 30, 10 am to 2 pm. Bring your files to be shred! \$1 per pound. Cash, cheque, or E-transfer. Free BBQ lunch. Special guests: MPP Caroline Mulroney & Mayor Margaret Quirk. 90 Wexford Dr, Keswick.



Ask The Expert

with Steven Sands





Q: In a marital separation where spouses are joint owners on title to their matrimonial home, and one spouse wants to put the home up for sale on the market, is there a right of first refusal permitting one spouse to force the other spouse to buy the other's interest instead of a sale?

A: The answer is "no" if the other spouse does not consent to such right of first refusal, according to a recent Ontario Court of Appeal ruling in a case. The Court of Appeal reaffirmed its previous ruling in 1992 in another case and stated that the Courts do not have jurisdiction to make such orders. It went on to say "...a right of first refusal is a substantive right that has economic value. It falls outside the boundaries of what is ancillary or what is reasonably necessary to implement the order for sale of the matrimonial home. It distorts the market for the sale of the matrimonial home by eliminating the need to compete against any other prospective purchaser, thus potentially reducing the amount the joint owning spouse realizes on the sale. In the absence of consent, the right of first refusal should not have been granted in this case. If the [spouse asking for a right of first refusal] seeks to purchase the matrimonial home, [he/she] must compete with any other interested purchaser".

The only possible exception (in the absence of the parties' agreement to any right of first refusal) under Ontario law is under Section 10 of the Ontario Family Law Act, which exception is limited to cases where there has been an application to the Court to determine a question of ownership or possession of the home. If the parties did not raise any question of ownership or possession the Court does not have the jurisdiction to order a right of first refusal.

Furthermore, if a spouse wants to force the sale of the home, that spouse usually applies for such relief from the Court (i.e. the Ontario Superior Court of Justice) under the provisions of another Ontario law known as the Partition Act, which states, in part: "All joint tenants, tenants in common, and coparceners, all doweresses, and entitled to dower, tenants by the curtesy, mortgagees or other creditors having liens on, and all parties interested in, to or out of, any land in Ontario, may be compelled to make or suffer partition or sale of the land, or any part thereof, whether the estate is legal and equitable or equitable only. R.S.O. 1990. c. P.4. s. 2."

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