



100 John West Way  
Aurora, Ontario  
L4G 6J1  
(905) 727-3123  
aurora.ca

Town of Aurora  
**Memorandum**  
Councillor's Office

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**Re:** Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority  
Board Meeting Highlights of February 24, 2023

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Councillor Michael Thompson

**Date:** March 28, 2023

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## **Recommendation**

- 1. That the memorandum regarding Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of February 24, 2023, be received for information.**

## **Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of February 24, 2023

## Board Meeting Highlights

February 24, 2023

### Announcements:

- a) CAO Baldwin paid tribute to former Board member and Newmarket Councillor Dave Kerwin who passed away in early February 2023. Mr. Kerwin was a Councillor in Newmarket for 39 years, a Conservation Authority Board member for 8 years, and a strong supporter of education and the new Nature Centre at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. CAO Baldwin offered condolences to his family and friends.

### Presentations:

#### a) **The Health of Lake Simcoe**

Limnologist, Dr. Brian Ginn, presented an update on the current environmental status and trends in Lake Simcoe, including climate change and ice cover, invasive mussels and plants, and nutrients. The presentation also included progress toward Lake Simcoe Protection Plan objectives and how the phosphorus decoupling scenario is restructuring our understanding of nutrient dynamics. To view this presentation, please click this link: [The Health of Lake Simcoe Presentation](#)

#### b) **Lake Simcoe Watershed Report Card 2023**

Manager, Watershed Plans and Strategies, Bill Thompson, provided an overview of the Lake Simcoe Watershed Report Card 2023, noting that the report card provides a snapshot of the environmental conditions in the Lake Simcoe watershed. Indicators include surface water quality, forest conditions, groundwater quality, and lake ice cover. The report cards have been completed every five years since 2008, and the criteria for assigning grades to watersheds and subwatersheds, as well as a template for reporting, is provided to all of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities by [Conservation Ontario](#) in an effort to have consistency in reporting across the province. Mr. Thompson also noted that the report card is set to be released on World Water Day, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, after which copies will be available on the Conservation Authority's website. To view this presentation, please click this link: [Lake Simcoe Watershed Report Card 2023 Presentation](#)

#### c) **Bill 23, More Homes Build Faster Act – Mandatory Changes for the Conservation Authorities Role in Development Review**

CAO Rob Baldwin presented on the mandatory changes under Bill 23, More Homes Build Faster Act, 2022, that impact and change the role that Conservation Authorities play in the development review process. Specifically, three changes that took effect January 1, 2023 were

a fee freeze for 2023; a requirement for additional information around potentially developable land owned by conservation authorities; and changes in the development plan review role. He noted that the Conservation Authority is protected by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan in some areas; such as, Natural Hazards and Source Protection. There are, however, legislative restrictions under Ontario Reg. 596/22 in areas such as the *Planning Act*, the *Drainage Act*, the *Ontario Water Resources Act*, the *Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Condominium Act*, the *Aggregate Act*, and the *Endangered Species Act*. As no guidance was provided by the Province on transition, Conservation Authority staff have met with the member municipalities and the development community on a transition plan, as well as updating planning memorandums of understanding. To view this presentation, please click this link: [Update on Bill 23 Presentation](#)

## **Correspondence and Staff Reports:**

### **Correspondence**

The Board received copies of the following pieces of Correspondence:

- a) December 28, 2022 memo from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding legislative and regulation changes affecting conservation authorities;
- b) December 28, 2022 memo from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regarding Minister's direction for conservation authorities regarding fee changes associated with planning, development and permitting fees;
- c) January 25, 2023 letter from Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury to the Hon. Chrystia Freeland regarding the Freshwater Action Plan;
- d) February 1, 2023 letter from the Town of East Gwillimbury to the Hon. Chrystia Freeland regarding the Federal Funding Commitment for Lake Simcoe;
- e) February 16, 2023 letter from the Town of Newmarket regarding the Lake Simcoe Fund;
- f) February 16, 2023 letter from Scot Davidson, Member of Parliament York-Simcoe regarding the Baldwin East Aerodrome.

### **Lake Simcoe Watershed Report Card 2023**

The Board received Staff Report No. 02-23-BOD regarding the Lake Simcoe Watershed Report Card 2023.

### **Bill 23, More Homes Build Faster Act – Mandatory Changes for the Conservation Authorities Role in Development Review**

The Board received Staff Report 03-23-BOD regarding Bill 23, More Homes Build Faster Act, 2022 – Mandatory Changes to Conservation Authorities' Role in Development Review.

### **Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: Annual Statistical Report**

The Board received Staff Report No. 04-23-BOD regarding the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act 2022 Annual Statistical Report.

### **Durham Regional Forest Standing Timber Sale, DRF-2023-001**

The Board received Staff Report No. 05-23-BOD regarding the record of tenders for the Durham Regional Forest Tender DRF-2023-001 and approved staff recommendation to award the tender to Gee's Lumber & Logging and Penguin Poles Ltd.

### **Administrative Offices Flat Roofing Renewal, RFQ FAC-02-2002**

The Board received Staff Report No. 06-23-BOD regarding the record of bids for the Administrative Offices Flat Roofing Renewal Request for Quotation FAC-02-2022 and approved staff recommendation to award the contract to Sinclair Industrial Roofing Inc.

### **Confidential Land Matter**

The Board approved Confidential Staff Report No. 07-23-BOD regarding a confidential land matter.

### **Confidential Legal Matter**

The Board received Confidential Staff Report No. 08-23-BOD regarding a confidential legal matter.

### **Confidential Human Resources Matter**

The Board approved Confidential Staff Report No. 09-23-BOD regarding a confidential human resources matter.

For more information or to see the full agenda package, visit [LSRCA's Board of Directors' webpage](#).