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Town of Aurora

Memorandum

Councillor Thompson

Re: Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of September 26, 2025

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Councillor Michael Thompson

Date: November 11, 2025

Recommendation

1. That the memorandum regarding Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of September 26, 2025, be received for information.

Attachments

1. Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of September 26, 2025

Board Meeting Highlights

September 26, 2025

Presentations:

a) Status Update on the North York Durham Sewage System Expansion Project

The Regional Municipality of York's Manager of Engineering, Shu He, provided a status update on the North York Durham Sewage System Expansion Project. For some background, Mr. He advised that from 2009 to 2014 York Region completed the Upper York Sewage Solutions Individual Environmental assessment project to accommodate the growth in the Upper York area including East Gwillimby, Newmarket and Aurora. The environmental assessment recommended a Lake Simcoe based wastewater servicing solution including a Water Reclamation Center and upgrades to the existing York Durham Sewage System. While the Province was satisfied with the studies and the consultation processes, no decision was made until the Province enacted the *York Region Wastewater Act* in October 2021, with the purpose of putting the Upper York Sewage Solutions environmental assessment project on hold to allow the Province to propose an alternative solution to service the Upper York area.

In November 2022, the Province enacted the *Supporting Growth and Housing in York and Durham Regions Act* and with that cancelled the Upper York Sewage Solutions environmental assessment project and directed the York and Durham Regions to deliver a Lake Ontario based wastewater servicing solution. Mr. He reviewed the project's milestones, noting that substantial completion is expected for the fourth quarter of 2030.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [North York Durham Sewage Solutions Expansion Project Update](#)

b) Blue-green Algal Blooms on Lake Simcoe

Limnologist, Dr. Brian Ginn, presented an update on blue-green algae on Lake Simcoe. Since the presentation of late summer 2024, the Conservation Authority's Science team has been investigating possible non-nutrient causes behind the 2024 algal bloom, as well as the presence of an algal layer in July and September 2025. In addition, staff have been working on a pilot project for sharing blue-green information from the lake with regional and municipal partners to develop an early-warning system that conditions favourable to blue-green algal bloom development may be occurring.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Blue-green Algal Blooms on Lake Simcoe](#)

c) Scanlon Creek Nature Centre Building Progress

Director, Conservation Lands Phil Davies, provided an overview of the progress made to date on the new Nature Centre being built at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area, noting the building will be fully accessible, barrier-free, inclusive and welcoming to all. This new building will replace the Conservation Authority's existing outdoor education facility and will be used for school-aged children programming, as well as community partner meetings and professional development. The official opening is planned for September 2026.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Scanlon Creek Nature Centre Progress Update](#)

d) Leveraging nature-based solutions to build climate resilience in the Lake Simcoe watershed

Manager, Watershed Plans and Strategies, Bill Thompson, provided a presentation on the use of nature-based solutions to build climate resilience in the Lake Simcoe watershed, noting that climate change is emerging as a significant driver of the health of Lake Simcoe and its watershed. Conservation Authority staff participate in several municipal working groups and roundtables, where information and resources are shared related to climate change and its effects on flooding, stormwater management, and urban heat. Through this work and the ongoing implementation of climate resilience strategies, staff have been building expertise in nature-based approaches to climate action.

Nature-based approaches represent an extension of the work already being done by the Conservation Authority in the areas of owning and managing natural areas, commenting on municipal policy and planning applications to protect natural features, as well as in restoration and afforestation programs that aim to increase natural cover in the Lake Simcoe watershed.

As this expertise develops, staff have been sharing it with municipal colleagues through a combination of case studies and workshops, hoping to strengthen the understanding of how nature-based solutions can contribute to climate resilience locally.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Nature-Based Climate Resilience Solutions](#).

For more information on nature-based climate resilience solutions, please contact Bill Thompson at b.thompson@lsrca.on.ca

e) Administrative Offices - Permeable Parking Lot Upgrade

Manager, Restoration, Christa Sharp, provided an overview of the new permeable pavement area at the Conservation Authority's Mabel Davis offices, noting that the Conservation Authority continues to implement projects through offsetting policies that address loss of natural heritage features (ecological offsetting), groundwater recharge deficit (water balance recharge offsetting), and post development phosphorus loads (phosphorus offsetting). This project to upgrade an existing 245 square metre section of permeable parking lot which needed

replacement addresses infiltration of water and filtration of contaminants. The previous installation of interlocking blocks was deteriorating and was no longer functioning as required.

The product used was Dream Pave, a resin-bound permeable paving product, that is expected to resist salts, is easily maintained and will allow for infiltration. Dream Pave supplied and installed the product at no cost to the Conservation Authority as a demonstration site. This was valued at \$58,000. In lieu of a donation receipt, Dream Pave requested an educational sign to highlight the product, as well as a one-year monitoring report. The site preparation work funded through the Conservation Authority's offsetting programs was approximately \$30,000.

To view this presentation, please click this link: [Administrative Offices Permeable Parking Area Upgrade 2025](#)

For more information on this project, please contact Christa Sharp at c.sharp@lsrca.on.ca

Correspondence and Staff Reports:

Correspondence

The Board received a copy of the September 10, 2025 letter from some Lake Simcoe watershed Members of Parliament to the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change regarding funding and assistance.

Leveraging nature-based solutions to build climate resilience in the Lake Simcoe watershed

The Board received Staff Report No. 31-25-BOD regarding the use of nature-based solutions to build climate resilience in the Lake Simcoe watershed.

Administrative Offices - Permeable Parking Lot Upgrade

The Board received Staff Report No. 32-25-BOD regarding the Conservation Authority's Administrative Offices Permeable Parking Lot Upgrade.

Auditor Selection

The Board received Staff Report No. 33-25-BOD regarding the Request for Proposal for External Audit Services. The Board further approved the appointment of BDO Canada LLP to provide external audit services for a five-year term starting with fiscal year ending 2025.

Confidential Human Resources Matter

The Board received Confidential Staff Report No. 34-25-BOD regarding a confidential human resources matter and further endorsed the recommendations contained within the confidential staff report.

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