

Georgina THE POST

Serving all Georgina Communities and the Greater Pefferlaw Area

Region seeks lower fees to mitigate costly delays in Marine unit development

A site-planning meeting by the Town's Site Plan Review Committee for a new development is not traditionally done within the scope of a public meeting. But due to the local interest in the new \$8.5 million York Regional Police Marine Unit proposed for Jackson's Point, council members, staff, York Regional Police and the public were on hand on Tuesday, February 26 to work out the details of the construction.

Also in attendance at the meeting was Wayne Emmerson, the Chair of York Region, and he took the podium early in the meeting to express his support for the project and concern for the delays which, he says, have cost York Region an additional \$464,000.00.

The delay Mr. Emmerson referred to was a July 2018 appeal by a local property owner who disagreed with a Committee of Adjustment ruling to allow zero setbacks from lot lines. The appeal went to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) in November 2018 and was denied on December 18, 2018.

"Because of the delays over the year our delay costs are \$464,000.00," Mr. Emmerson said. "And we know that the delays were because of the public and participation and I have no problem whatsoever with that but it was over a long period of time to even get it to court and it was dismissed."

Mr. Emmerson explained that the costs of the delay could be mitigated if the Town were agreeable to reducing their fees which total \$67,900 for the site-plan approval process, site inspection fees and building permits. He said the Town's fee schedule listed an inspection fee of \$4,000 but it was charging York Region \$45,900.00.

"So I'm just asking on behalf of Regional Council that you look at those fees going forward and see if you can help with those," he said. The meeting also gave the public in attendance an opportunity to make comment and ask questions. Two local area residents took exception to Mr. Emmerson's suggestion that the public was responsible for the delays.

Building Dimensions



Artist's concept drawing of the new \$8.5 million York Regional Police Marine Unit complex which will need \$2 million for operating expenses once it is completed in Q4 2019.

"I am a little taken aback by Chairman Emmerson's comments about the delay and that it was the responsibility of the residents," Mr. Cliff Williams told the committee. "I'm sure if everything had been done correctly, properly and thoroughly the residents would have had no issue whatsoever and there would have been no delay."

Continued on page 4...



Sandy Young



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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I read with interest that our CAO, Ms. Winanne Grant, has left Town.

This is the ideal opportunity to save some money and to put taxpayers first. My understanding is that Mr. Dave Reddon, our Deputy CAO and long time town employee, handled the responsibilities of the job very well while Ms. Grant was away most of last year. Why not offer Mr. Reddon the top job, and if he accepts, we can move on?

During the seven or so years that Ms. Grant was our CAO, Georgina's population grew a modest 9%, but the number of town employees increased by about 35%. Why is this acceptable to Councils current and past? It certainly isn't sustainable. How can 9% more residents generate the need for 35% more employees?

I applaud Deputy Mayor and Regional Councillor Rob Grossi and Ward 1 Councillor Mike Waddington for their attempts to curtail spending during the 2019 budget deliberations. Their efforts were out-voted.

Are there no efficiencies in how we process work that has been implemented during the past seven years? (As an aside, I am told that hundreds of town employees still fill in weekly time sheets!)

It is clearly time for a hiring freeze at the Town of Georgina. I am not suggesting that we eliminate current positions, just don't replace people that leave, retire or hire any new people for the

next three years. That is how we can build up reserves instead of taxing our way to success. Then just before the next election we can assess where we are.

The Province of Ontario is conducting a study on how regional and local municipalities might deliver services more efficiently. Georgina Council should immediately stop any expenditures that relate to the MURC and Civic Centre at least until that study is complete. Why is Council in such a rush to put taxpayers deeper in debt?

Taxpayers are already paying too much in Georgina, with even more being forecast. I submit it is time for our elected officials to put taxpayers first.

Sincerely,
W.R. Trainor
Georgina, ON

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Mr. Davidson goes to Ottawa



Scot Davidson, his wife Suzanne and son Graydon celebrate a Tory win after Mr. Davidson received 8,929 votes in the York Simcoe by-election on February 25.

There were smiles all around at the Sutton Legion on February 25 when Scot Davidson raised the Conservative banner in victory after the York Simcoe by-election.

He won the hotly contested seat with 53.9 per cent of the vote and captured 4,118 more votes than his closest competitor, Liberal candidate Shaun Tanaka.

In an interview with the Georgina Post, Mr. Davidson said that despite the weather during the fast paced 47-day campaign, he and his team worked extremely hard and the results were what he expected.

“That is how I have achieved everything in my life, with hard work, and we were really happy with the results,” he said.

During his door to door campaign, he said people told him

that the current government had not done anything to improve their lives and had not delivered on their promises.

“It is like a car stuck in the ditch and no one is pushing,” he said.

He flew to Ottawa the next evening and said he felt very honoured and excited as he entered the parliament buildings.

“You just want to tap yourself to see if it is real,” he said. “I was so honoured to be there and to be representing York Simcoe and indeed, Canada.”

Mr. Davidson said he expects to be sworn in on March 18 and intends to get up to speed quickly on various files and issues.

“York Simcoe is in very good hands and I want people to know that I have an open door policy,” he said.

Party	Candidate	Votes	Percent
PC Party	Dorian Baxter	634	3.8 %
Conservative	Scot Davidson	8,929	53.9 %
People's Party	Robert Geurts	314	1.9 %
Libertarian	Keith Dean Komar	95	0.6 %
Green Party	Mathew Lund	451	2.7 %
NDP-New Democratic Party	Jessa McLean	1,244	7.5 %
National Citizens Alliance	Adam Suhr	22	0.1 %
Liberal	Shaun Tanaka	4,811	29.0 %
Independent	John The Engineer Turmel	64	0.4 %
Total number of valid votes:		16,564	
Rejected ballots:		95	
Total number of votes:		16,659	
Population:	104,010		
Number of electors on list:	83,179		
Validation Date:	February 28, 2019		

Voter turn-out in York Simcoe was just under 20 per cent.

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YRP Marine Unit experiences costly delays

Continued from page 1.

Jackson's Point resident Paul Brady also attempted to "reiterate" comments made by Mr. Williams but was told by Mayor Quirk to "keep his comments to the site plan" discussion.

Public concerns regarding the plans for the construction of the 12,000 sq. ft. marine unit dealt with the 32 foot height of the boat house, elevation changes to address storm water management, a containment plan for the fuel tank to be located at the north end of the property and the integrity of an existing sea wall.

It was explained that the 32 foot height requirement for the boat house was to allow the police boats to be serviced and inspected once they are out of the water. No containment plan was offered for the fuel tank and residents heard that the existing sea wall was in good

repair and would not need remediation—a response that surprised many residents. With the Site Plan Review Committee approving the site plan provided by York Regional Police at the meeting, it is expected that the project will be completed by the fourth quarter of 2019.

In closing, Mayor Quirk addressed Mr. Emmerson's comments regarding the reason for the delay and integral to her comments was her response to his request for reconsideration of the Town's fee structure. "That's democracy," she said. "People have a right to ask questions. People have a right to make appeals and if it costs more money, then that's the price of democracy. So if someone wants to raise a concern, they are more than entitled to do it and if it delays things then, that again, it is the price of democracy."

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Sibbald's Point greets Perchin for MS Ice Fishing Tournament anglers

The 9th Annual Perchin for MS Ice Fishing Tournament attracted 386 anglers who competed to win a first prize of \$4,000 with the 10 heaviest perch. The tournament was held at Sibbald's Point Provincial Park on Saturday, March 2. Cash awards and donated draw prizes totalled approximately \$50,000.00. Organized and hosted by Doug Poirier, the tournament is a personal triumph for Mr. Poirier who has been battling the disease for 10 years. The Perchin for MS Tournament has raised over \$125,000 for MS research since the tournament began.



Roman Runo (left) and Janusz Kawalec (right) pick up \$4,000 with their winning weight of 12.4 lbs.



Scott Burns (right) and next to him Kevin Francis came in second with a catch weighing 5.02 lbs



The third place catch of 4.75 lbs by Shawn Richards (left) and Tim Reece (right) won \$1,200.



He didn't catch any fish but Ryan Parsons won a snow blower donated by Sutton Home Hardware.



In one of the many draws held throughout the day, Alex Young was delighted to take home a new kayak when his lucky ticket was pulled in a draw.



Not to be out done by his grandson Alex, Sandy Young was the lucky winner of a new BBQ.

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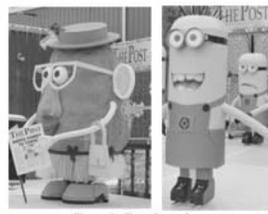
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Short term rental recommendations tabled

After almost a year, the long awaited consultant's report with recommendations on how the Town should proceed to address the negative impact of disruptive behaviour by guests renting vacation homes on a short-term basis was unveiled at council on Wednesday, February 27.

Mike Smith from Mike Smith Planning Consultants told council the results of his research into the sharing economy suggests a short-term rental accommodation (STRA) program in a community must be sensitive to the community's needs and tolerance for short-term rentals.

"The regulatory program must endeavour to reasonably preserve the character of neighbourhoods and ensure the health, safety and general well being of both STRA renters and residents," he said.

The recommendations put forward by Mr. Smith uses a combination of Official Plan/Secondary Plan amendments, a zoning by-law amendment and a licensing by-law to achieve the desired effect.

A by-law amendment would see current bed and breakfast operations and STRAs being treated the same which would effectively mean all short term rental accommodations in single detached dwellings across Georgina would be subject to the same regulatory framework.

A key element within that framework is a licensing scheme and a demerit point system to enforce non-compliance.

A STRA is defined as a licensed, single detached dwelling with a maximum of four bedrooms accommodating no more than 12 guests.

The report recommends that a STRA be charged \$2,000 a year to operate and only one license will be issued per host.

The demerit point system would come into play if by-laws officers, accompanied by police, were called to the STRA and renters were found to be contravening the Town's STRA Code

of Conduct and/or other by-laws, provincial acts or regulations.

According to the report, a total of seven demerit points within a six month period could result in a licence suspension and if the total demerit points reach 15, the licence could be revoked. In addition, contravention could result in fines as high as \$1,000.00.

The meeting attracted both short term rental operators and the neighbours that are being affected by disrespectful renters. Solutions put forward by the affected neighbours ranged from an outright ban of short term rental operations within a residential area or at the very least, limiting them to principal residences lived in by the owners.

Ward 3 Councillor Dave Neeson said he is concerned that a STRA is not treated any differently from a single family dwelling by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and therefore the Town does not receive any additional taxes to help cover the costs of licensing and additional enforcement staff. "Ultimately we will be subsidizing a private business and I have concerns about that," he said.

His solution was to recommend that a "working group" be created with technical and political representation to reach out to the other nine York Region municipalities and deal with the issue comprehensively. "I think we would have a lot more likelihood of success in dealing with the province and looking for political change to ensure there is a fair playing field if we have that level of representation," he said.

Council approved Councillor Neeson's motion and they also agreed to add \$20,000 to the by-law enforcement budget to help meet the expected complaints and call demand coming from neighbours of STRAs this summer.

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Margaret has been a Routes rider for over a year now, after her neighbour and fellow Routes rider suggested she uses Routes to ensure she never has to miss a medical appointment.

For many Georgina residents like Margaret, relying solely on taxis can be financially straining, and it is not always possible to take the bus. Margaret believed that her only option was to rely on friends and family – hoping that their schedules aligned with her medical appointments and she would be able to attend them. That was until she gave Routes a call.

Margaret was registered and booking her rides for her upcoming doctor's appointments within minutes.

"Since I've been taking Routes, it's been a blessing. Just a blessing," says Margaret, "I know that the person that is picking me up is going to get me there and that I'm going to make it home safe!"

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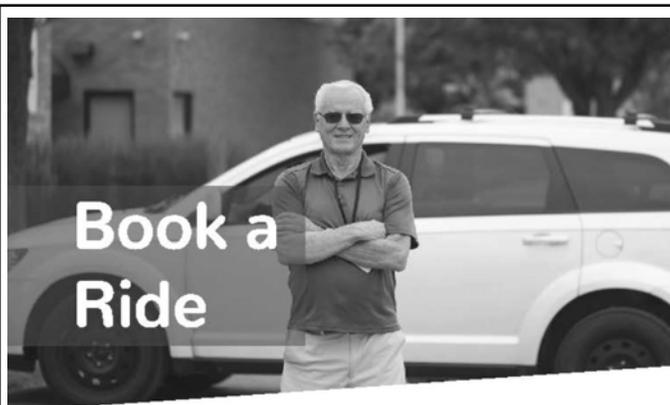
"Since I've been taking Routes, I don't have to depend on anybody". Margaret simply calls the Routes office, informs staff of her upcoming appointments and awaits a confirmation call from one of Routes' volunteer drivers – although to Margaret, they aren't just drivers, they're

friends!

"We laugh, we joke, we talk. They're really great people. All of the drivers I've had are great people...they've become friends."

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Georgina council asked to take an official position on the UYSS

Chief and Council of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation (GIFN) have sent a letter to Georgina council asking them to “take an official position” on the Upper York Sewage Solution (UYSS).

The band has formally opposed the \$615 million wastewater treatment project which has been deemed necessary by York Region, the proponents for the project, to service new growth in East Gwillimbury, Newmarket and Aurora.

At full capacity, it is expected to discharge 40 million litres of day of treated effluent into the East Holland River.

In her letter to Georgina Council, Chief Donna Big Canoe said efforts to pursue alternative options and mitigation with the province and the Region have not been successful.

She said the First Nation has always been willing to move

forward and look for solutions but can't control whether the Province or the Region are willing to have substantive discussions. So far, most of the important issues, including impacts on First Nations right and managing pollution have been explicitly off the table.

“As a respected ally, who declares a friendship with our First Nation and acknowledges the Chippewa territory to where the Town of Georgina is situated, we ask that you take an official position on the Upper York Sewage Solutions,” she wrote. “An official position by Georgina Town Council will provide clarity on how we can work together on this project.”

The First Nation's opposition is based on environmental concerns regarding the cumulative effects of pharmaceuticals and personal care products

Continued on page 9...

THE LINK

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- EST. 2019 -

March 17
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Upper York Sewage Solution

Continued from page 8.
 contained in the effluent. The band also says the Province has not adequately executed its duty to consult with First Nations and they are further concerned over the negative impacts to their hunting and fishing rights. While Georgina council did not formally declare an official position on the UYSS, members unanimously voted to send a letter to the Province indicating their "shared concern" for the issues raised by the First Nations. The letter will also encourage the province to move forward with its duty to consult and answer questions the First Nations say are still outstanding. Council also approved a letter be sent in response to the Chipewas of Georgina's request for an official position on the Upper York Sewage Solution. Mayor Margaret Quirk ex-

plained that this letter would confirm that council shares in the concerns raised by them and it will inform them that Georgina will invite political leaders and technical experts from around Lake Simcoe to participate in a forum to discuss the effectiveness and impact of various waste water treatment plants around the Lake. In their motion, council also agreed not to discuss the UYSS further at council until staff provides a comprehensive timeline of Town actions, reports and resolutions on the subject going back to a date when the UYSS was first dealt with by previous councils. Additionally, Georgina council will ask York Region to provide an update on the pilot project that is demonstrating the effectiveness of new waste water treatment technology that has been installed at the Keswick treatment plant.

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In and Around TOWN



Poem—Intermediate Grades
Jordan Colbary (1st).



Black & White Poster—Primary Grades
(L to R) Sicas Hill (2nd), Santhosh Suthan (1st), Paige Himes (3rd).

LEGION HONOURS

Twenty-eight public school students from across Georgina picked up prizes and awards on Sunday, February 24 when members of the Royal Canadian Legion in Sutton made presentations for the top three entries in their annual Poster, Essay and Poem competition categories.



Poem—Junior Grades
Eva Whyte (3rd).



Colour Poster—Junior Grades: (L to R) Willow Rawlinson (2nd), Cecilia Cunningham (1st), Cooper Donovan (3rd).



Essay — Intermediate Grades
(L to R) Lexie Desrosiers (2nd), Bailey McArthur (1st),



Black & White Poster—Intermediate
Emilia Vila (2nd).



Black & White Poster—Junior Grades
(L to R) Avar Fletcher (2nd), Addison Strange (1st), Braydon Stockley (3rd).



Colour Poster—Intermediate Grades
(L to R) Jeniena Robson (2nd), Valentina Sipione (3rd).



Colour Poster—Primary Grades
Bella Harper (2nd).



Congratulations to the organizers and volunteers who were on hand to help out at the Pefferlaw Association of Ratepayers (PAR) All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner on February 23. The event supports the Annual Pefferlaw Picnic which offers a free day of fun and frolic for the entire family on the long weekend in August. York Simcoe candidates running in the by-election were invited to serve up the spaghetti, meatballs, caesar salad, garlic bread and cake. Above, Green Party candidate Matt Lund takes his turn dishing out the meatballs and sauce.



Club 55 in Pefferlaw had a great turn-out for their Bid Euchre Tournament on Sat. March 2. With 14 tables, 86 euchre enthusiasts played for a chance to win the \$100 first place prize. The top honours went to Jean Moore (354), Christine Raynsford (345), and George Morrison (326).

Gotcha!



This industrious little thief has been helping himself to free lumber from my property and I'm pretty sure he doesn't have a building permit. He's a very tidy guy though—nothing is ever left except a few shavings and the pointy ends of the tree stumps. Now, if only I could teach him to replace the trees he has been stealing.

A beautiful collection of artwork created by local artist Ellen Downe (right) opened at the Georgina Arts Centre on Sunday, March 3. Ms. Downe told guests at the opening reception that she receives her inspiration from Lake Simcoe and her own garden.



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Coming Events & Announcements

The Georgina Brock Garden Club presents **Seed Starting for Beginners to Experts** on Mon. Mar. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wilfrid Community Hall.

Connect with employers at the yorkworks Employment Services **Spring/Summer Job Fair** held at the Link on Thursday, Mar. 14 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Get those creative juices flowing and enter the ever-popular **Cardboard Toboggan Races** at the ROC on Thurs. Mar. 14. Check in at noon. Races start at 1:00 pm.

Therapeutic Tuesday's at Hospice Georgina is pleased to announce **Expressive Group Drumming** on Tues. Mar. 19 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm.

Put on your green dancing shoes and come out to the Club 55 St. Patrick's Day dinner and dance in Keswick on Mar. 16.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the **Winter Market** at the Link on Sunday, March 17 from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm.

The Pefferlaw Library is offering Tea Tasting with Suzanne Catty on Sat. Mar. 23

from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Free and Drop In.

Ed Winacott is offering an **Open Mic** event at the Georgina Arts Centre and Gallery on the 4th Sunday of every month beginning Feb. 24. Open to all skill levels. 2-5 p.m.

HELP WANTED

WAVE TAXI is looking for responsible outgoing people to drive taxi cabs and/or provide transportation for medical appointments. If you are interested, please call (905) 252-0208.



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