



E-Conservation Advisory

SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE NATURALISTS

SLSN is an incorporated not-for-profit Member of Ontario Nature.

2021-08-10

Members of South Lake Simcoe Naturalists, for information:

The Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition (RLSC) is making a delegation to Georgina Council about the Bradford Bypass on August 11th at 11 am. The object of the ask is to join the City of Barrie and Brock Township in passing a motion **asking for a full impact assessment of the proposed Bradford Bypass Highway**. Claire Malcolmson of the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition will be making the presentation also co-representing the Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition. The impact on natural wetland habitat and wildlife in the Bradford area, and contributions to cumulative impact to Lake Simcoe must be further studied. The highway project is also known as the 400-404 Link, connecting Bradford West Gwillimbury with East Gwillimbury municipalities. See the presentation information from Lake Simcoe Watch here, <https://lakesimcoewatch.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/RLSC-letter-to-munis-BBPass-Georgina-1.pdf>

SLSN was involved in environmental assessment twenty years ago regarding the proposed highway 404 extension with other community and natural heritage protection organizations, municipalities, and other stakeholders. Natural heritage resource management impacts, route alternatives and related planning design considerations resulted. At that time residents and Council of Georgina demanded detailed presentations on environmental assessment and planning processes from Provincial staff, right here in Georgina, and that did happen! These kinds of detailed science-based investigations, public engagements, and conversations about science and socio-human landuse and planning are what is needed. Contemporary impacts like climate change, stream, and river stressors, increasing G.T.A. human populations, rapid subdivision, and other developments, and documented environmental changes occurring in Lake Simcoe are of concern.

The Ontario Government M.T.O. information regarding the Bradford ByPass can be seen here, <https://www.bradfordbypass.ca/>

Other information supplied by RLSC is below.

Georgina Council contact information: <https://www.georgina.ca/municipal-government/mayor-and-council>

July 13, news:

<https://www.orilliamatters.com/local-news/province-shows-no-regard-for-health-of-lake-simcoe-group-says-3952022>

June 6, Ontario Society of Professional Engineers:

https://ospe.on.ca/advocacy/bradford-bypass-and-evidence-based-decision-making/?fbclid=IwAR2s_AmGm46BZXGPH76shFa2AzJYSZ_jXuOyi-Ez0PTZ4O9MP9QfvXL4-s

July 2, news, The Pointer:

<https://thepointer.com/article/2021-07-02/we-can-t-keep-doing-this-pc-government-speeds-ahead-with-bradford-bypass-advocates-say-process-lacks-proper-scrutiny>

See below two public comment articles from files in the summer of 2019 of Mayor Quirk's position statements, representing the Town of Georgina, supporting the Bradford ByPass and extending the Highway 404 in Georgina, in the summer of 2019 Also see below York Media article 2021-03-21 with comment from Georgina Regional Councillor Grossi advocating to the Federal Government to speed up the Bradford ByPass These comments underline the current context and situation of urgency in this matter!

Please contact by phone or e-mail Mayor and Council members in Georgina after your review, and consideration of support for **a full impact assessment of the proposed Bradford Bypass Highway.**

Find Georgina Council contact information here,

https://www.google.com/search?q=georgina+councillors&rlz=1C1CHBF_enCA941CA941&oq=Georgina+Council&qs=chrome.1.0i512l4j69i65j69i60j69i61l2.10647j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

Paul Harpley, SLSN

2019-08-20

<https://georginapost.com/2019/08/20/breaking-news-bradford-bypass-gets-green-light-from-caroline-mulroney/>

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On August 14th, Minister of Transportation Caroline Mulroney announced that the Bradford Bypass, also known as the Highway 400-404 link, will be moving forward after being shelved for over a decade.

“I am pleased to announce the province is moving forward with the Bradford Bypass after it was put on hold by the previous Liberal government,” says Ms. Mulroney in a press release to The Post.

“The first step towards making this project a reality is to review and update the Environmental Assessment that was first approved by the Progressive Conservative government in 2002.”

“Work on updating the assessment, and preparing for design and engineering, begins today. This is great news for the people of York Region and Simcoe County.”

The Bypass, approximately 16.2 kilometres of highway, linking the 400 with the 404, will pass through Bradford West Gwillimbury between the 8th and 9th lines. It’s expected to connect to the 404 north of Queensville Sideroad.

“The Bypass will relieve congestion, support planned urban development and help move goods and people,” says Ms. Mulroney.



Traffic congestion entering Bradford

“I have been advocating for this project since I was first elected. As this project moves forward, I will continue to update my constituents on its progress.”

Ms. Mulroney personally called several local mayors prior to the official announcement, including Georgina Mayor Margaret Quirk.

“It’s certainly great news for our area,” says Mayor Quirk. “It’s not in Georgina, but this connecting link is going to be a great benefit to not only our residents that commute and travel between 404 and 400, but certainly for our business community. So this is good news for Georgina.”

Mayor Quirk also believes this announcement may kick-start further discussions about a possible extension for the 404 Highway.

“It’s definitely something that I can talk with MPP Mulroney about,” says Mayor Quirk.

“She’s aware that we’d like to have it up to Glenwoods Ave, where the business park is. That’s something that has been raised in discussions I’ve had with her. And this certainly may open the door for wider discussions on that.”

[Mike Anderson](#)

Publisher/Editor at [The Georgina Post](#)

2021-03-21

York Media

<https://www.bradfordtoday.ca/local-news/york-region-council-vote-to-send-letter-to-federal-government-in-support-bradford-bypass-project-3559610>

York Region Council vote to send letter to federal government in support Bradford Bypass project

'This has been studied and discussed since the late 1980s. We need the infrastructure for the growth that has already occurred' says Georgina Regional Councillor

Mar 21, 2021 1:30 PM By: [Natasha Philpott](#)

Ecojustice, acting on behalf of Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition and Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition, called for a new Federal Environmental Assessment for the Bradford Bypass, or what environmental groups have been calling the Holland Marsh Highway - but York Regional Council voted unanimously to send a letter to the federal government in support of constructing the 16km link between Highways 404 and 400.

Two individuals spoke in the deputation portion of the meeting, in opposition to the council view.

Steve Gilchrist of Pickering, a former Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing who was involved in protecting the Oak Ridges Moraine, and York Region resident Irene Ford both asked Council to support the request for a federal environmental assessment.

"This project was started so long ago that the policy, social, environmental and economic environment are completely different. To suggest that a 20-year-old approval for such a large infrastructure project on environmentally sensitive land is adequate when the context has changed dramatically is concerning," wrote Ford, arguing that the EA for the Bradford Bypass "is so dated that you have to start over."

There was support for the 4-lane link by members of Regional Council. East Gwillimbury Mayor Virginia Hackson said, "It's exciting to see this move forward at last."

"This has been studied and discussed since the late 1980s. We need the infrastructure for the growth that has already occurred," noted Georgina Regional Councillor Rob Grossi.

Regional Chair Wayne Emmerson also noted that the province has the expertise and jurisdiction to carry out the 15 studies to update the approved environmental assessment.

A report also supported both the project, and the process, and rejected the idea of federal intervention.

"Staff has not been able to identify any instance of the [federal] Minister exercising their discretion in this manner over a project that would otherwise only be regulated by a provincial environmental assessment process," the report noted.

"The Region anticipates the current provincial Environmental Assessment process for the Bradford Bypass will continue to address environmental, social, economic and health issues as well as necessary public consultation to balance the needs for all community stakeholders," the report noted, going on to describe a "robust level of environmental assessment and stakeholder consultation" that is part of the process.

The report affirmed that the Bypass project supports York Region's Official Plan and Transportation Master Plan.

"The Bradford Bypass, also known as the Highway 400-404 Link, supports the Region's Official Plan and Transportation Master Plan (2016) and is an important component of servicing planned growth in the Region. The Region has long supported the Bradford Bypass Project and has been consulted by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation since the original Individual Environmental Assessment (EA) approved in 2002," it stated.

It was reported that the Link's route goes through 0.35 percent of the Holland Marsh area. Coun. Grossi noted that local roads can't handle more traffic, and the Link will save commuters 34 minutes on average, according to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation.

Ecojustice has claimed that the time savings for commuters will be seconds, not minutes.

York Regional Council voted to send a letter, in support of the provincial Environmental Assessment now underway.

