



E-Conservation Advisory

SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE NATURALISTS

2021-11-11

Supplementary: HIGHWAYS in the G.T.A.

Members of South Lake Simcoe Naturalists, for information.

As many of you are aware Conservation partners of SLSN advocating Action against proposed Highways in the G.T.A. are politically active now. See current Toronto Star Editorial article regarding Highway 413,

https://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials/2021/11/12/politics-not-logic-is-behind-doug-fords-new-drive-to-build-highway-413.html?source=newsletter&utm_content=a06&utm_source=ts_nl&utm_medium=email&utm_email=6EA0E815B8FFE40A55C58C2297DE34C8&utm_campaign=tmh_85567

and other information on activist and other politician involvement engagement.

P. Harpley

Bradford By-Pass Highway Update and opportunities for activists contribution

The Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition (RLSC) advises that the province has exempted this 16 km highway Bradford By-Pass project from the Environmental Assessment process. The project is essentially approved. No provincial Ministry of the Environment sign-off is now needed. SLSN members following this provincial transportation infrastructure

initiative have expressed concern about these highway projects and below is current information on their evolution.



Day of Action

RLSC invite people to join them and other community members on **Saturday, November 13th, 1 - 3 at MPP Mulroney's office to protest.** (45 Grist Mill Rd. Holland Landing) They advise this as an opportunity to meet kindred spirits and make your views heard and seen. They advise bringing signs about sustainability, climate and the lake.



**GREENBELT
NOT ASPHALT**

**NOV
13**

DAY OF ACTION



Join the **KING CITY RALLY to STOP
HIGHWAY 413 and the BRADFORD BYPASS**
Where: Wellesley Park, 2330 King Road (Keele St. entrance)
When: Nov. 13, 2021 at 15:30
www.stopthe413.ca

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Statement on G.T.A. Highways **Green Party of Ontario**

Ford says he's "building Ontario," but his plan paves over what makes our province special.

This week's Fall Economic Statement features more of the anti-climate, anti-affordability policy we've come to expect from the Ford government; an announcement that was as much a rally cry against the environment, as an economic statement.

Instead of giving Ontarians the climate action and affordable housing we so desperately need, Ford fully committed to funding Highway 413 and the Holland Marsh Highway (Bradford Bypass). The four-lane bypass will cross 27 waterways and rip through Ontario's environmentally sensitive wetlands and prime farmland. This kind of expansion is Ford's way of playing fast and loose with your children's futures.

Ford needs to stop building highways.

Ontario Greens released a climate plan focused on reducing carbon emissions and building stronger, greener communities. Our [Roadmap to Net-Zero](#) lays out a comprehensive plan to build a strong, green economy while giving families more time together and less time spent on the road.

[Tell Ford he needs a climate plan now](#)

Paving over more wetlands and farmland to supercharge urban sprawl will only make the climate and housing crisis worse. If the Premier truly wants to improve the quality of life for Ontario families, then he cannot ignore the need to address climate change now to ensure we have a tomorrow to come home to.

Instead of putting the climate crisis front and centre, Ford can only talk about more highways. His plan has no imagination, and no future. It's just more pavement.

We have the plan Ontarians need.

Join me in [telling the Ford Government](#) to stop spewing the same old rhetoric and follow the Ontario Greens' climate plan to reach the Ontario we want.

Sincerely,

Nav K. Dhaliwal Director of Communications
Ontario Greens

E-Conservation Advisory

SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE NATURALISTS

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-EzOPTZ4O9MP9QfvXL4-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 By-Pass 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&aqs=chrome..69j69i65j69i60j69i61l2.10647j0j7&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/>

GEORGINA
Post

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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.