

February 12, 2008

Honourable John Gerretsen
Minister of the Environment
12th Floor, 135 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto ON
M4V 1P5

Re: Proposed Provincial Actions to Limit Phosphorus Loadings from Sewage Treatment Plants in the Lake Simcoe Basin

The following resolution was passed by the General Government Committee at its meeting held February 7, 2008 and endorsed by Ajax Town Council at its regular meeting held February 11, 2008:

1. **That the “Proposed Provincial Actions to Limit Phosphorus Loadings from Sewage Treatment Plants into Lake Simcoe” report, dated February 7, 2008, be endorsed as the Town’s comments on Environmental Bill of Rights Registry Posting No. 010-2246, conveying the following recommendations to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) requesting equitable protection of water quality in both the Lake Simcoe Basin and the Lake Ontario Basin by taking the following steps:**
 - a) **conduct the appropriate studies and provide a justification for loadings of phosphorus to the Lake Simcoe Basin to ensure that the proposed regulation for sewage treatment plants (STPs) located within the Lake Simcoe Basin imposes the appropriate limits on all phosphorus discharges, including soluble phosphorus, that are sufficient to ensure the long-term protection of the water resources, recognizing the changes that have occurred to the Lake’s ecosystem and associated watershed over the past few decades;**
 - b) **substantially upgrade the Provincial standards governing STPs, on a regular basis, in order to recognize changes that have been and are happening to aquatic ecosystems and, specifically, to reduce the release of total phosphorus, soluble phosphorus, other nutrients and contaminants into our freshwater resources;**

- c) move to a regulatory regime that controls the discharge from STPs based upon loadings of specific nutrients and contaminants, as is being practiced by many other regulatory jurisdictions around the world, and not based on concentrations, as is being proposed for total phosphorus in Lake Simcoe;**
- d) prepare and approve a new regulation imposing much stricter limits on nutrient emissions from the expanding Duffin Creek STP, which receives wastewater collected by the York-Durham Sewage System (YDSS), known as the Big Pipe, from sources in the Lake Simcoe Basin and the Lake Ontario Basin, prior to finalization of the STP's design and issuance of a new Certificate of Approval (Sewage Works), such that the existing loadings of nutrients and contaminants from the Duffin Creek STP are not allowed to increase, as is being proposed for STPs within the Lake Simcoe Basin;**
- e) develop a comprehensive, long-term Provincial strategy and regulations for STP point sources that are loadings-based as well as concentration-based, including the imposition of strict loading limits on total and soluble phosphorus, to curtail nutrient emissions from all STPs discharging into the Lake Ontario Basin;**
- f) prepare a comprehensive, long-term Provincial strategy governing the Lake Simcoe Basin that prevents further transfer of greater loadings of nutrients and contaminants, and associated adverse environmental impacts, via the Big Pipe, from the Lake Simcoe Basin to Lake Ontario waters and the Ajax waterfront by:**

 - i) establishing a finite upper limit on the volume and loadings of nutrients and contaminants associated with wastewater that are being conveyed from the Lake Simcoe Basin into Lake Ontario, in consultation with the Town;**
 - ii) aggressively promoting water conservation as the primary means of reducing wastewater volumes generated by growth; and**
 - iii) prohibiting consideration of any new YDSS connections or extensions in the Lake Simcoe Basin as options when addressing wastewater infrastructure gaps identified in the "Intergovernmental Action Plan for Simcoe County, Barrie and Orillia" to support further growth in Simcoe County; and**
- g) assist the Regions of Durham and York to obtain federal and provincial infrastructure funds to undertake vital technology upgrades to the Duffin Creek STP and the Ajax water supply plant and other such existing plants as the first line of defense for the Lake Ontario Basin's waters; and**

- 2. That the Town Clerk send this report to the Minister of the Environment, the Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal, Durham and York Regions, Simcoe County, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, the International Joint Commission, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario and the other local municipalities in Durham Region.**

A copy of the report that prompted this action is attached for you information. Thank you for your prompt attention.

M. de Rond, Director of Legislative & Information Services/Town Clerk
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905-619-2529 ext 336

copy: Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal
Durham Region
York Region
Simcoe County
The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
International Joint Commission
Environmental Commissioner of Ontario
Municipalities in Durham Region
P. Allore, Director of Planing & Development Services
B. Hodgins, Senior Policy Planner
R. Ford, Director of Finance/Treasurer