

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

SPECIAL COUNCIL ADDENDUM #2

Thursday, March 22, 2018
7:00 PM

13. DISPOSITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS, GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS AND COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

(2) General Information Items

Pages 1-2

- Correspondence from Tom Sandler, local freelance photographer, referencing Robert Kennedy Jr, founder of Water Keepers Worldwide, and providing his photograph of an owl taken in the subject wetlands.

Pages 3-4

- Correspondence from 'Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources' (P.O.W.E.R.) in support of the preservation and protection of the environmentally significant Paradise Beach – Island Grove lands.

Subject: FW: N G Forest wetlands
Attachments: Kennedy R wtr Ir T Sandler _9515 copy.jpg

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tom Sandler
Date: March 22, 2018 at 12:57:14 PM EDT
To: <dneeson@georgina.ca>, <ndavison@georgina.ca>
Subject: N G Forest wetlands

Hello councillors ,

Thank you for your reply emails about the wetlands support. My name is Tom Sandler , I'm a freelance photographer I have a cottage in Island Grove. I thought you'd get a kick out this attached image. I'm the photog who created the T Shirt, The Forest is Watching, after I photographed that owl in the wetlands one day . I also happen to shoot for the Ont Water Keepers and that year Robert Kennedy Jr was the keynote speaker at the gala . I printed a special T Shirt and presented to him, on the back we printed " Kennedy Gives a Hoot " The advocate ran it and Kennedy gave us his blessing, and posed for the shot. Kennedy is the founder of the Water Keepers Worldwide.

I thought you'd to see the the shot, and the effort I made . I also shoot the City Nights Events page for the Toronto Star and am the photog for the Clear Water Farm for Annabel Slaight

Let me know if I can be of more assistance, good luck tonight, I can't there as I'm in the city, shooting for the Star tonight

Cheers

--
Tom Sandler
President





March 22, 2018

To Georgina Council
 Subject Special Council Meeting, March 22, 2018
 Sent by email
 Original has signature

Without prejudice

Dear Council,

On behalf of Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (P.O.W.E.R.), we are calling upon Georgina Council to support the Motion before you today, at the Town of Georgina Special Meeting of Council on March 22, 2018, directing Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority to

“exercise its mandate to conserve and protect the environmentally significant Paradise Beach - Island Grove lands for the future health of Lake Simcoe and its surrounding communities , and decline to issue a section 28 permit on the Maple Lake Estates Property”.

As the individuals who have the ability to take actions at the landscape level, you have the ability to consider what and where development should occur. It is our belief that BioDiversityⁱ (genes, species, ecosystems and the goods and services they provide) must be at the basis for all local decisions. In considering BioDiversity through the ecosystem lens, the services provided by the Paradise Beach-Island Grove Provincially Significant Wetland are a significant contributor to a sustainable future and the value they provide in perpetuity for our water, will far outweigh the conversion of the lands to development. How can a landuse change that destroys ecological function and natural capital be economically positive in the long term? At the least, a natural capital assessment of the area should be included in the decision making process. In this way Council will have the facts in front of them to make a decision for all residents of Georgina, both current and future.

Wetlands are considered by many to be the most productive and significant ecosystem in Ontario – they are our rainforests, they are our coral reefs. Wetlands have disappeared in Ontario at levels that are degrading our ecosystems at astonishing rates. Pre-colonial records suggest that in southern Ontario, a minimum of 68% of the original wetlands have been converted from their natural state to support alternative uses such as agriculture and housingⁱⁱ. The role of wetlands in ecosystems is enormousⁱⁱⁱ for our water and for all life. Continuing to destroy their function no longer makes sense especially when they are our large blocks of significant services nature gives us to protect and nourish us, to protect our water. Would you vote to destroy water treatment plants for development?

In our minds this is the questions that must be considered. We could make many other links to other matters (tourism, climate change, sustainability, etc) but we will not here as time is limited. If council would like more in depth engagement, we would be pleased to do so. Perhaps it is time for Georgina to

create a BioDiversity Strategy? By doing this you would have a solid base against which to consider land use change decisions. If this is of interest, we would be please to assist.

We are confident that if you take a systems approach, a broad lens, and, consider the role of this area to the health of the people both in Georgina and far away, you will support motion before you tonight. We also call upon you to reflect that you are making this consideration on the 25th World Water Day. The theme for 2018 is "Nature for Water" to underscore and call upon us to move towards inclusion of nature based solutions to support our water futures^{iv}. Further, today is the first day of the United Nations (UN) Decade of Action for Water for sustainable development in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Targets^v. Show courage and insight in your deliberations, consider the impacts of your decision today, and reflect on the state of water globally, and we believe that your support of the motion is possible.

Sincerely
Doris Treleaven
President P.O.W.E.R.

About P.O.W.E.R.

P.O.W.E.R. works from the individual to the international level to foster directions that support a lighter footprint on the planet. P.O.W.E.R. was formed in 1987 by citizens concerned about a plan to turn the Acton quarry, on the Niagara Escarpment, into a garbage dump. The dump was stopped but the importance of protecting water, and environment continues. We seek to educate, foster actions, and develop measured solutions that address unsustainable patterns and approaches that affect the quality of life and health of our planet. We believe that a healthy environment is the foundation for a bright future. Recognizing this, P.O.W.E.R. works to develop proactive projects, programs, directions and policies that recognize the necessity, importance, value and role of natural spaces, native species and ecosystem function and flows for a sustainable future.

ⁱ <https://www.cbd.int/> <http://www.biodivcanada.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=DABC84B3-1>
<http://ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/water-overview/sources/wetlands.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/why-are-wetlands-important>
https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/teeb_waterwetlands_report_2013.pdf
<https://www.ramsar.org/about/the-importance-of-wetlands>

^{iv} <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/water/wwap/wwdr/2018-nature-based-solutions/>

^v <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>