

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

COUNCIL AGENDA

ADDENDUM #2

Wednesday, March 27, 2019
7:00 PM

12. REPORTS

(2) REPORTS REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION

Report from the Recreation and Culture Department:
(Agenda pages 368-373)

(H) Ministry of Transportation Community Transportation Program

Report No. RC-2019-0009

Additional Recommendation:

5. That Council, upon receipt of the signed Transfer Payment Agreement between the Province of Ontario and the Town of Georgina, pay the expenditure of no more than \$110,000 plus HST for the purchase of a coach bus; this expenditure is to be reimbursed by the Ministry of Transportation as part of the Community Transportation Program.

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

(1) Dispositions/Proclamations

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(H) Jack Heath, Markham and York Regional Councillor, providing information on 'Finding Land for Seniors Affordable Housing – Making Housing & Our Community More Senior-Friendly'.

Pages 2-3

(I) Kiran Saini, Acting Town Clerk, Town of Newmarket, advising of its participation in Earth Hour on Saturday, March 30th by turning off all non-essential lighting and power in all of its facilities where possible.

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(J) Robin Smith requesting Council to support Georgina families and request the Minister of Children and Youth Services to review and consider productive options for the Ontario Autism Program.

Pages 5-6

- (K) Stacey and Gilles Bennett requesting Council forward correspondence to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services requesting further adaptations to the adjusted Ontario Autism Program to ensure that the 600+ autistic children within Georgina receive education and support necessary.

Pages 7-8

- (L) Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services 'News' entitled 'Ontario Enhancing Support for Children with Autism' – new actions include moving children off the wait-list, eliminating income testing and expanding eligible services.

From: Regional Councillor, Jack Heath - Markham <jheath@markham.ca>

Sent: March 25, 2019 3:52 PM

To: Regional Councillor, Jack Heath - Markham <jheath@markham.ca>

Subject: Finding Land for Seniors' Affordable Housing + Making Housing & Our Community More Senior-Friendly

Attached is the slide deck used for a presentation to Markham's Developmental Services Committee on Monday March 18th regarding "Recommendations for an Age-Friendly Community". It was presented by **The Committee for an Age-Friendly Markham** and myself.

There are two points I would like to draw your attention to:

1. **"ALWAYS" HOMES.** We called for a small portion of all new homes to be Always Homes, which means they have design features (built at-grade, wheelchair accessible, etc.) that allow people to remain in their home for as long as possible, even as their health changes. Because of land costs, we don't build many bungalows anymore. But we do build a large number of multi-level homes so, for all new homes, we also recommended they be designed for future installation of in-home elevators if needed later. Some of the guidelines apply to condos too. See slides #6-#9.
2. **THE SUPPLY OF LAND.** Despite what one hears, government and its many agencies have acres and acres of land which could be used for affordable housing - surface parking lots. The recommendation was for all or some of the land presently being used for surface parking by government and its agencies be made available at no cost to build affordable housing for seniors and others. To replace the lost parking spaces, the new housing development would provide an equal number of structured parking spaces within the new development at no cost. The lots that fit the category include: public utilities, school boards (especially high schools on collector or arterial roads), hospitals, transit companies including GO, and municipal facilities especially City Halls and community centres. Places of worship are also a possibility. With the cost of land being so high, the trade off, free land for structured parking, is a good exchange if one wants affordable housing built. I have tested this concept on landowners and they see opportunities. In this scenario, the issues about cost and availability of land are diminished but, because there is so much land in the above categories, we will need coordination, implementation and oversight of the mostly private developers. There's far too much available new land for government to handle. We may even need to coordinate across the GTHA! See slides #10-#12 and #23.

The recommendations, minus a few items Markham Council has already dealt with, were sent to staff for public and stakeholder consultation, possibly a workshop, and a report back in the fall.

I have not heard of several of the recommendations being considered elsewhere in the GTHA as part of a broad plan. They go some distance to addressing issues municipalities and the province have in regard to preparing for, in practical ways, an aging population, and providing workable solutions to the need for affordable housing. You may have additional ideas! Except for significantly increased costs of in-home PSW and nursing care, the other costs are minimal. If the cost of land, so high in the GTHA, is removed, the need for government financial assistance for purpose-built rental is greatly reduced, and there are similar benefits for other types of housing.

Feel free to contact me or my assistant Melinda Phuong if you would like more information. Best wishes.

Jack Heath

Markham & York Regional Councillor
905-415-7506 Cell 416-464-5517

**Kiran Saini**

Acting Director of Legislative Services/ Town Clerk

Town of Newmarket

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March 26, 2019

Sent via email to all Greater Toronto Area Municipalities

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Participation in Earth Hour – March 30, 2019

I am writing to advise that Council, at its meeting held on March 25, 2019, adopted the following recommendations:

Whereas climate change is the biggest environmental threat to our planet and a major concern for all Canadians; and,

Whereas at exactly 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 30, 2019, major cities around the world will turn off their lights and electrical power for one hour to raise awareness about climate change and to symbolize that, working together, the people of the world can make a difference in the fight against global warming; and,

Whereas the event, called "Earth Hour", began in Sydney, Australia in 2007 as 2.2 million people turned off their lights to take a stand against climate change; and,

Whereas since then, it has become an annual, globally-observed event; and,

Whereas participating in Earth Hour sends a powerful message to every citizen and business around the world that it's possible to take action on climate change and that switching off our lights and electrical power is just one simple action we can take to help make a difference; and,

Whereas in the last several years, Newmarket has continued to be a leader in this effort, with one of the highest rates of reduction in electricity consumption in the GTA; and,

Therefore be it enacted by the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the Town of Newmarket as follows:

1. That at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 30, 2019, the Corporation of the Town of Newmarket will join other cities around the world in literally "turning out the lights" by shutting off all non-essential lighting and power in all of its facilities, where feasible, and without jeopardizing safety, for one full hour; and,
2. That participation in Earth Hour by the Corporation of the Town of Newmarket will be widely promoted and publicized in order to raise awareness about this important issue and in order to encourage every individual, household and



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business in town to join in by turning off their lights and electrical power for one hour at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 30, 2019 wherever possible to safely to so; and,

3. That a copy of this Resolution will be forwarded to every municipality in the GTA.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kiran Saini".

Kiran Saini
Acting Town Clerk

KS:aw

Subject: FW: letter to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services Minister

From: Robin Smith

Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 9:49 AM

To: Mike Waddington <mwaddington@georgina.ca>; Margaret Quirk <mquirk@georgina.ca>

Cc: 'Robin Smith'

Subject: letter to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services Minister

Hello Mayor Quirk and Mike,

I am respectfully asking/hoping that you support the motion on the table at council tonight to send a letter to the Minister of Children and Youth Services from The Town of Georgina asking that they review and consider other productive options for the OAP.

We need to impact these kids when they are young with intensive support so that they have a chance to be self sufficient when they are older. I have seen the benefits of early and consistent support. It DOES make a difference and it is very expensive. Most families could never afford even a fraction of what is needed.

If we spend the money now, we have a chance to keep the people off of the streets and lessen the impact on the health care system and welfare systems in the future. It's a matter of which budget it comes fromand when.

Moving kids with autism into regular classrooms before they are ready and without support will affect every child and teacher, not just the ones with unique needs.

Why not give them a chance at success?

Thanks for your consideration.

Robin Smith

Subject: FW: Local Families In Crisis - Ontario Autism Program

From: Stacey & Gilles

Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 10:42 AM

To: Margaret Quirk <mquirk@georgina.ca>

Cc: Robert Grossi <rgrossi@georgina.ca>; Dan Fellini <dfellini@georgina.ca>

Subject: Local Families In Crisis - Ontario Autism Program

Good Morning Mayor Quirk, Regional Councillor Grossi and Councillor Fellini,

I need your help.

Families within Georgina and across Ontario are undergoing a major crisis, and they need a solution. Funding has been reduced that support children diagnosed with Autism and their education is at stake.

Ontario needs to put our tax dollars to good work to help the youth of today that are diagnosed with Autism to ensure sufficient treatment, support and educational opportunities. Evidence shows that early learning opportunities have a significant impact on the progress of speech and language with children diagnosed with Autism.

I firmly believe that all children deserve the educational experience that will work for them.

Farmers don't feed plants only once they have blossomed. They nourish and support the soil in which those plants will grow to ensure the optimal environment for maximum growth and bloom. Ontario needs to focus on "feeding the soil" of our education system so that the youth of today can be supported and develop to their maximum potential so we may have a prosperous future.

Refusing to invest in the education and support of today's youth - particularly children diagnosed with Autism will cost Ontario a great deal more once children age out of the education system. Without early learning opportunities and support there will be a burden on our social services system in the future if these kids exit the school system without the appropriate education and support. Can Georgina support hundreds of young adults who might need a residential home once they age out of the system after not receiving sufficient support to develop life skills to live independently or retain jobs to support themselves?

We must provide children diagnosed with Autism the optimal learning environment, therapies and support so that they may learn life skills and language along with their fundamental education.

I have a petition in our office here at We Print T-shirts that I invite you all to come into sign to Support Ontario Families With Autism. Together we can have our voices heard to petition the government to find a better solution - please - I urge you to raise your voice to support your neighbors, your community and children across the province who need our help.

I ask you to take a moment to reflect on what you would do if your child desperately needed services and support that you could not provide from your household budget.

Please - let's work together to keep the conversation going.

I request that the Georgina town council formulate a letter of concern to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and request further adaptations to the adjusted Ontario Autism Program so that the estimated 600+ children within Georgina diagnosed with Autism may receive the education and support necessary.

We need to feed the soil, so our future can blossom.

With gratitude,

Stacey Bennett

Ontario Enhancing Support for Children with Autism

New actions include removing income testing for Childhood Budgets and further expanding eligible services.

March 21, 2019 10:00 A.M.

TORONTO - Ontario's government is putting people first by enhancing the Ontario Autism Program, which comes into effect on April 1, 2019.

"Our government is fully committed to transforming how autism services are delivered in Ontario," said Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. "The government is working to move all 23,000 children off the waitlist as quickly as possible within the next 18 months."

MacLeod highlighted that one of the enhancements the government is exploring is how best to provide additional supports to families based on the diagnosed needs of their child.

"Parents were right when they said that autism is a spectrum and that there are different needs for children on the spectrum," MacLeod added. "I'll take their input for the next several months to assess how we better support those with more complex needs and provide additional sources of support to them."

The government is working on its previously announced reforms, particularly to ensure all children receive support.

Moving Children Off the Waitlist

The government is working to move all 23,000 children off the waitlist so they have timely access to support.

Children will be brought off the waitlist based on a combination of the time they have been waiting for service, and with a continued focus on early intervention. Considerations will be made for children five years of age and youth 17 years of age to ensure they receive the maximum remaining funding.

The government will explore options to provide children who are currently on the waitlist with Childhood Budgets on a quicker timeline, especially younger children.

To build on previously-announced changes to the program, the government is:

Eliminating Income Testing

All families of children and youth under the age of 18 with a written diagnosis of autism from a qualified professional will now be eligible for a Childhood Budget. Children under the age of six will receive \$20,000 annually in direct funding, while those six and over will receive \$5,000 annually.

Expanding Eligible Services

Through Childhood Budgets, families will have access to a broader range of eligible services, such as speech language pathology, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy. Full details on eligible services will be posted on the ministry's website in early April.

Smoothing the Transition for Families Receiving Services

All children who currently have an Ontario Autism Program Behaviour Plan will continue to receive the services outlined in that plan until its end date. Families will then be able to renew it for six months at its current level of intensity.

"We continue to work to support children with autism, and their families," concluded MacLeod. "The new Ontario Autism Program with its enhancements is the best possible program Ontario can deliver and it is the only program in the history of our province that will support every single child."

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