



Georgina Town Council April 2

Ice storm cleanup – verbal report

Fire Chief Ron Jenkins provided a verbal update regarding the Town's response to the [ice storm](#) of March 29 and 30, 2025. The Town is working with Hydro One to determine when power will be restored to affected customers. The Pepperlaw Lion's Hall is operating as a daily reception centre from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. where residents can get warm and charge devices. Showers are available at the Georgina Leisure Pool and MURC. The Town arranged for YRT shuttle bus service between the reception centre and the Leisure Pool. The shuttle will run continuously every half hour from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will allow residents to take showers at the Leisure Pool, pick up groceries and complete other errands. Tree debris can be dropped off at the Pepperlaw Lion's Hall on Pete's Lane in the north parking lot daily from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday, April 5 and Sunday, April 6 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Yard waste collection will begin the week of April 7. Tree debris can also be taken to the waste transfer station located at 23068 Warden Ave. Drop off of tree debris and yard waste is free for Georgina residents for the month of April. There is no internet service in Pepperlaw and the Town is arranging for Starlink to be provided for internet and cell phone service.

Proposed modifications to the Community improvement Plan (CIP) Grant programs

Council received the report regarding proposed modifications to the Community improvement Plan (CIP) Grant programs and adopted them. The modifications enhance the scope of the Accessibility Grant in order to support interior renovations intended to improve accessibility and increase the maximum allowable grant for all grant streams within the CIP Grant Program from \$5,000 to \$7,500.

Proposed adjustments to procurement practices in response to U.S. tariffs

Council received the report regarding proposed adjustments to the Town's procurement practices in response to U.S. tariffs imposed on goods imported to the U.S. from Canada. Council directed Procurement Services to acquire its deliverables, where feasible, from vendors in countries other than the United States, with preference to be given to Canadian vendors. Town employees were directed, when acquiring deliverables outside of the formal procurement process, to find, where feasible, alternative sources of supply from countries other than the United States. Council also directed Town staff involved in the acquisition of goods to source qualified Canadian vendors to whom invitations can be issued by Procurement Services for formal procurements. Procurement Services will continue to monitor the tariff situation and report to Council as necessary.

Motion from Councillor Neeson on salt management

WHEREAS road salt is a known toxic substance designated under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act because of tangible threats of serious and irreversible environmental and public health concerns associated with road salt; and

WHEREAS salt levels in Ontario's groundwater aquifers, creeks, rivers, and lakes have increasingly worsened since the 1970s, seriously affecting municipal drinking water sources and aquatic life; and

WHEREAS Lake Simcoe is our closest freshwater lake and is the fourth largest inland lake within Ontario, host to a number of functions including a biodiverse habitat for over 56 species of fish, the source water for municipal drinking water for hundreds of thousands of residents within the watershed, including 41,000 here in the Town of Georgina, and the many other recreational and commercial functions it serves; and

WHEREAS Lake Simcoe's salinity concentrations have increased over 500 per cent since monitoring began over the past 50 years, with the primary contributor being runoff from the use of salt for winter maintenance; and

WHEREAS the Ontario and Canadian governments have taken many actions over the past 25 years including setting water quality guidelines, developing voluntary codes of practice, signing the Canada-Ontario Great Lakes Agreement, and holding workshops, yet still the salt problem continues to grow; and

WHEREAS numerous situation analyses have recommended salt solutions involving liability protection, contractor certification, government-approved Best Management Practices (BMPs) and salt management plans; and

WHEREAS increased numbers of slip and fall claims, and other injury/collision claims related to snow and ice, are resulting in salt applicators overusing salt beyond levels considered best practices; and

WHEREAS unlimited contractor liability is making it difficult or expensive for snow and ice management contractors to obtain insurance coverage, resulting in contractors leaving the business, thereby making it difficult for municipalities and private owners to find contractors; and

WHEREAS the Snow and Ice Management Sector (SMS) of Landscape Ontario is working with the Ontario government to institute a limited liability regime for snow and ice management, including enforceable contractor training/certification and government-approved BMPs for salt application; and

WHEREAS many Ontario municipalities have Salt Management Plans, but these often require updating in light of improved science and better salt management practices now available; and

WHEREAS The Town of Georgina shares 52 kilometres of beautiful Lake Simcoe shoreline and all 288 square kilometers of the Town of Georgina are encompassed by sub-watersheds that drain into Lake Simcoe; and

WHEREAS road authorities that use salt, such as the Town of Georgina, must abide by, and benefit from, established provincial regulations around snow clearing and maintenance, whereas private contractors only have voluntary programs for salt use for private and commercial property management; and

WHEREAS the Town of Georgina has demonstrated great initiative in salt mitigation efforts including committing to the use of rock salt alternatives, installation of electronic spreader controllers on all material spreading units, reduced application rates when appropriate, use of pre-wet and brine when appropriate, and an updated salt management plan that outlines salt best management practices specific to the Corporation of the Town of Georgina's winter maintenance operations

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. That the Town of Georgina urges the province of Ontario to work urgently with key stakeholders to develop limited liability legislation, including enforceable contractor training and a single set of provincially endorsed standard BMPs for snow and ice management; and
2. That the Town of Georgina urges the province of Ontario to create and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the province and municipalities on the best courses of action to protect freshwater ecosystems and drinking water from the impacts of salt pollution; and
3. That the Town of Georgina continues to commit to the reduction of the use of road salt as much as possible while meeting local service levels and maintaining safety on roads and sidewalks; and
4. That a copy of this resolution be sent to all municipalities in York Region, all Lake Simcoe watershed municipalities; The Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation and The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority requesting their endorsement; The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); all Lake Simcoe watershed MPPs; Conservation Ontario; The Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition; The Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition; Minister Todd McCarthy (MECP); Attorney General Doug Downey, and Premier Doug Ford.

Closed session

In regard to Closed Session Item 17.1.a under Section 239 (2) (b) of the Municipal Act being personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees, regarding Volunteer Award of Merit nominees,
That staff be directed to proceed accordingly.

Additional Council information

Comprehensive minutes of Georgina Town Council meetings, which detail the full list of Council decisions, are available under [Agendas and Minutes](#) on the Town website once they have been ratified by Council.