



A Message to Those Who Care About Georgian Bay

Thanks to all of you for your unwavering support and advocacy to preserve the well-being and beautiful environment of Southern Georgian Bay. Your efforts are heartwarming, prolific, outstanding; in letter writing, postings, dips, donations, delegations, and deputations. All of these actions are impressive and the deputations were absolutely superlative.

For those who presented to Meaford Council: your preparation and the information you shared with council, the passion you displayed-- we all admire the fortitude it took for each of you to stand in front of councillors, staff and a large audience of observers and supporters on February 27th at Meaford Hall. I hope you found it gratifying to hear the cheers of your peers at your key points! Thanks to all those who stepped up and made these personal, well-reasoned, energized and powerful deputations: Joseph Leung, Nancy Primak, Allan Johnson, Kellie Haslam, Amanda Greenfield, Sylvia Hidvegi, Clair Balfour, Sue Johnston, Teresa Sorska-Rybarczyk, and Louise Buccella.

The ratio of emails opposing versus supporting the TCE project was approximately 5 to 1. Our records indicate at least 595 emails opposing the project were sent to council. Our community's opposition to this project was abundantly clear thanks to all of you who wrote and motivated the emails. No doubt the pressure on council had to be enormous. We say Bravo! to our champion councillors Brandon Forder and Harley Greenfield who held fast and stayed on principle despite immense pressures from their peers and TCE and the Minister of Energy. How 5 other councillors could fail this test of loyalty to community will is puzzling and suspicious.

I know many of you feel ignored, sad, disappointed and have concerns after the passing of the "Willing Host Resolution" 5 to 2 that Monday. All of us on the SGB Team have heard from many of you and share in your feelings of loss, disillusionment in political leaders, and our democracy.

You have asked "What now?" We will gather ideas and continue to fight the project. A renewed strategy may include legal interventions, connecting with environmental agencies to communicate with and continuing to push information to DND and IESO to fight for our goal. I want to reassure you that we are moving forward on all possible fronts. I am asking you to stay hopeful and engaged for these reasons and more:

- The IESO has received 3300+ hand delivered petition signatures from Save Georgian Bay on Friday, January 27 2023 indicating Meaford is not a willing host. IESO still needs to find ratepayer value in the project. Their decision is pending and we think council's misguided action will be used as a supporting element with a possibility that they or the Minister will pass it through the current gate despite poor ratepayer value. We are continuing to put pressure on IESO and, more so, the Minister of Energy, Todd Smith, who can pretend this deceptive resolution is valid, however, we know and they know, Meaford as a community, is not on board.
- TCE must be having difficulty rationalizing the lack of competitive value for ratepayers. The ultimate gross cost of construction gets higher every day and competitive projects (like Oneida's mega on-the-grid lithium battery storage project at 90+% efficiency) better achieve every claim TCE offers as to why storage is important. TCE's carbon production during construction and operation; the lack of competitive efficiency as compared to



newer technologies and the implementation schedule all line up against TCE's proposal. We must hope that TCE's attempt to greenwash the project is evident to the agencies who have set the decarbonization goals for Ontario and for Canada.

- The Department of National Defence (DND) still has to approve giving up a portion of the 4th Canadian Division Training Centre. Their decision of two years ago was only to allow the project to continue environmental studies.
- It is still early in the project review stage. The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC), the governing body who approves these types of projects under the Impact Assessment Act, has not even been formally notified that the project exists. This approval process can easily take 3 to 5 years or more from registration of the project to final approval. (A new council can be elected by then!)
- The Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) still has not voted on the project within their community. They continue to remain neutral and study. The community's commitment to the environment has been demonstrated in their vote on the burial of nuclear waste along the shores of Lake Huron despite attractive economic benefits. We hope that the environmental commitment of First Nations will have a heavy influence in their studies and decision on the project.

We all need to continue to exercise our rights and voice as citizens, as ratepayers. There are still many hurdles for this project. At some point, we hope that more than just one decision maker will realize spending many billions on a mechanism that reduces electrical energy output in a province that desperately needs more is a bad idea..... financially, technically, *ENVIRONMENTALLY.*

The longer the approval process takes, as summarized, the more improvements will evolve in alternate storage technologies, potentially rendering pumped storage technology obsolete.

We must all continue to study the project and its impact and comparative solutions. We must continue to let political leaders know why this is Ontario's Worst Energy Mistake.

We may even see another municipal election before this project gets to the final stages. If this council won't correct their mistake of not listening to the community will, perhaps the next council voting on this project can correct the current council's misstep.

Again, thanks to all for your support and tenacity and thank you to Freda Ariella Muscovitch for contributions to this post.

Tom Buck
For Save Georgian Bay Team