

December 19, 2023

**\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\***

## Township of The Archipelago and Town of the Blue Mountains Join Opposition to TC Energy Ontario Pumped Storage Project

### *Township Calls on all Municipalities in the Georgian Bay Basin to Help Prevent the Project from Proceeding*

Meaford ON – On November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 the Township of The Archipelago unanimously carried Councillor Cade Fraser’s motion “vehemently” opposing the proposed TC Energy Ontario Pumped Storage Project (“the Project”) on Georgian Bay, primarily as a bad financial deal for Ontario, but also because of the significant risks to the environment.

Forwarding their resolution to all municipalities in the Georgian Bay Basin, the Township of The Archipelago requests their co-operation in protecting Georgian Bay by preventing this project from proceeding. The Town of the Blue Mountains answered the call when, on December 18<sup>th</sup> 2023, their council passed a resolution to support in principle the Township of the Archipelago's resolution.

Save Georgian Bay applauds the Township of The Archipelago and the Town of the Blue Mountains for prioritizing the protection of the environment and Georgian Bay. “We’ve been getting tremendous feedback from residents to our campaign to stop the destruction of the Niagara Escarpment and Georgian Bay,” said Tom Buck of Save Georgian Bay. “Now that the Township of The Archipelago and the Town of the Blue Mountains, have made their concerns public, we’re asking every community to take a close look at the Project. We expect that other municipalities will prioritize protecting Georgian Bay by making similar resolutions,” he added.

Save Georgian Bay is calling on Meaford’s council to suspend their “willing host” resolution associated with the Project. “It’s time for the Municipality of Meaford to listen to their constituents who are overwhelmingly against the Project.”

"The Resolution should be applauded and raises the critical question of what is a “willing host” community, surely it involves everyone around Georgian Bay”, said David Donnelly, counsel to Save Georgian Bay.

If developed, the open-loop pumped storage facility would be co-located on the existing Canadian Army’s 4th Canadian Division Training Centre, north of Meaford, Ontario. To function, the facility must pump 23 billion litres of water 150

metres up the Niagara Escarpment, dumping it into a 375 acre reservoir, and releasing it daily back into Georgian Bay. For context, that's 9,200 Olympic sized swimming pools worth of water in a hole the size of Toronto's High Park being flushed back down the escarpment every day.

The Township of The Archipelago's resolution recognizes that the Project risks causing irreparable harm to the environment and irreversibly damaging the unique ecological, cultural, and historical features of the area. In addition to the risks to local animal, plant, fish, and human populations, they highlight the risks to the area's important tourism industry, as well as to the sport and commercial fishing industries that rely on a clean and healthy Bay.

The resolution draws attention to the fact that the Department of National Defense ("DND") site is already polluted and that the proposed project could exacerbate the situation, calling on DND to remediate the military base without having to blow such an enormous hole in the ground.

The resolution also urges the Ministry of Energy to cease its support of the Project based on the Independent Electricity System Operator (the "IESO") recommendation that the Project should not be approved, avoiding the placement of an unnecessary financial burden on Ontario taxpayers. The IESO is tasked with examining the project and protecting taxpayers from bad projects.

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Save Georgian Bay is a volunteer group of concerned citizens that oppose the TC Energy Ontario Pumped Storage Project, a massive open-loop energy storage facility in Meaford Ontario, due to the significant and irreversible environmental harm to the escarpment and Georgian Bay it would cause. Save Georgian Bay welcomes inquiries from any municipalities interested in making similar motions to those made by the Township of The Archipelago.

Further information is available from:

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