



## You Made a Difference - But the Fight Goes On!

Dear friends of Save Georgian Bay,

Thank you to all those who wrote Meaford Council or showed up at the February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting in person or online to protest TC Energy's demand for a seat on the proposed Pumped Storage Advisory Committee—a committee specifically planned to give the community a voice on the impact of the corporation's environmentally devastating megaproject whose price tag could soar to at least \$7 billion.

There was standing room only in the council chamber with at least two dozen of you listening to the three-hour deliberations from the hall. Your numbers clearly made an impression. As Councillor Tony Bell noted, "We don't get a turnout like this even when we're talking about your taxes."

That show of force, as well as excellent deputations, helped score one victory: Councillors responded to Save Georgian Bay's outrage over TC Energy's attempts to muscle in on the ninemember community committee and swiftly agreed they would not give the corporation a seat.

But in what appeared to be a pre-arranged move, Councillor Bell promptly proposed a change in the committee's planned make-up that can only be considered a setback for Save Georgian Bay: eliminating a seat reserved for our organization, as well as another for a representative of the 300 properties that lie in the "impact zone" below TC Energy's proposed 375-acre reservoir. Bell argued that doing away with those designated opposition voices, plus a representative from the Meaford Chamber of Commerce, would produce "a well-rounded balanced committee."

Save Georgian Bay members strongly disagree. Stripping guaranteed seats from Save Georgian Bay and the taxpayers whose properties will be directly affected by the project—seats that council's own consultant, the Ainley Group, specified for fair community representation— means that opposition voices may have effectively been silenced, leaving the way for supporters of TC Energy to dominate the committee.

Another worry: the same councillors who voted 5-2 to approve TC Energy's pumped storage project exactly a year ago will appoint pre-interviewed applicants to the committee. Two members of council will also sit in as non-voting members of the committee—except on one key decision: they can vote on who serves as its chair.

"It's a mistake—another mistake—by council to fail to include people who have the knowledge and involvement of our group," says Tom Buck of Save Georgian Bay. "Members of Save

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Let's Save Georgian Bay!



Georgian Bay have studied this project harder and know more about its hazards than any average citizen of Meaford. Our people can bring a lot to this committee.”

Please write council to make sure our voice and expertise are included in this proposed Pumped Storage Advisory Committee. You can reach them by emailing [council@meaford.ca](mailto:council@meaford.ca).

The deadline for applications to sit on the Pumped Storage Advisory Committee is March 15th. Application information can be found here: <https://www.meaford.ca/en/ourgovernment/appointments.aspx>

To learn more, visit our website: <https://savegeorgianbay.ca/> or donate at <https://smallchangefund.ca/project/save-the-bay/>

Watch the following news report from CTV News Barrie (<https://barrie.ctvnews.ca/controversysurrounds-proposal-for-multi-billion-dollar-energy-storage-facility-in-meaford-1.6784436>)

Let’s Save the Bay,

Tom Buck  
for Save Georgian Bay



Protestors opposed to a multi-billion-dollar energy storage facility proposal gather in Meaford, Ont., on Mon., Feb. 26, 2024

(CTV News/Christian D’Avino)

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