

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Killarney Becomes Seventh Georgian Bay Municipality to Oppose TC Energy’s Pumped Storage Project

KILLARNEY, ON — March 23, 2026 — The Municipality of Killarney has officially passed Resolution

#26-091, joining a growing number of Georgian Bay municipalities opposing TC Energy’s proposed Pumped Storage Project (PSP). The decision, carried at the March 11 Council meeting, reinforces widespread regional concerns about environmental harm, financial burden, and the lack of transparency surrounding the megaproject.

IESO Recommendation Cited Directly by Killarney

Killarney’s resolution explicitly cites the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), which advised the Ministry of Energy that the PSP “should not proceed” due to unfavourable financial implications for Ontario ratepayers.

This provincial-level rejection strengthens the municipality’s position and raises questions about why the project continues receiving political support.

Environmental and Ecological Concerns Highlighted

- Killarney Council identified major risks, including:
- Irreparable harm to fish, wildlife, and the Georgian Bay ecosystem
- Severe impacts on tourism and commercial/sport fishing
- Irreversible damage to ecological, cultural, and historical features
- Added risk from the Department of National Defence’s failure to remediate pollution on the Meaford base, already classified as a brownfield site

These concerns match those raised across the Georgian Bay region and reinforce the need for independent scrutiny.

Provincial Recognition Strengthens Credibility

Save Georgian Bay’s long-standing advocacy work was recognized with Ontario Nature’s 2024 Corporate Award for Conservation, awarded

“for working with partners and mobilizing the public to protect the ecosystems of the Niagara Escarpment and Georgian Bay.”

This province-wide recognition affirms the legitimacy of community concerns and aligns with the issues raised by municipalities and ecological experts.

Transparency Concerns Deepen as Promised Studies Remain Withheld

TC Energy has repeatedly committed — including in statements to the Owen Sound Sun Times — that its technical, environmental, social, and economic studies would be made publicly available as part of the Impact Description and impact statement phases. In the Feb. 25, 2026 article, TC Energy communications lead Sara Beasley stated that these studies ***“will be shared as part of the impact statement phase”*** and would become ***“part of the public record... available for review and comment.”***

However, at the Feb. 12 federal information session, residents emphasized that TC Energy still has not released the baseline studies the public needs in order to participate meaningfully in the upcoming 30-day federal comment window. As reported in the same article, Save Georgian Bay noted that TC Energy “hasn’t shared baseline studies that the public needs to comment during the upcoming 30-day federal comment window.”

This disconnect between public promises and actual disclosure has reinforced widespread concern about transparency. The company’s failure to release required studies — including ecological, technical, and geotechnical assessments — undermines confidence in the regulatory process and impedes informed public participation.

Independent Scientific Reports Were Submitted — and Not Acknowledged

In addition to the missing baseline studies, respected ENGOs have raised concerns about TC Energy’s lack of transparency. The Nottawasaga Steelheaders, a long-established fisheries and conservation organization working directly with MNRF, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, and multiple Fish Management Zone Councils, submitted a detailed scientific report to TC Energy outlining serious ecological risks, including threats to lake trout spawning grounds, juvenile fish survival, flow-rate impacts, turbidity, and thermal discharge effects.

Despite the depth of this submission — which includes government-referenced data, multi-year fisheries assessments, and technical questions requiring a formal response — TC Energy never acknowledged the report, did not cite it, and did not incorporate it into its public-facing documentation or environmental baseline studies. This omission raises further concerns about whether independent science is being properly considered in the assessment process.

Regional Opposition Now Bay-Wide

With Killarney joining the movement, municipal opposition now spans the entire Georgian Bay region. Councils consistently cite:

- Environmental risk
- Taxpayer burden
- Lack of technical detail
- Erosion of public trust

The IESO's recommendation that the project not proceed

Killarney's Resolution Calls for Immediate Action

Killarney Council urges:

- Immediate remediation of the contaminated DND lands
- The Ministry of Energy to withdraw support for the project
- Acceptance of the IESO recommendation that the PSP not be approved

The resolution was certified CARRIED by Clerk-Treasurer Candy K. Beauvais.

Media Contact

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Save Georgian Bay is a volunteer-driven environmental organization dedicated to protecting the ecosystems of Georgian Bay and the Niagara Escarpment. In recognition of its leadership and public mobilization efforts, Save Georgian Bay received Ontario Nature's 2024 Corporate Award for Conservation, an honour shared with some of Ontario's most respected environmental organizations.