

First Nations Consultation – September 18, 2009

Attending this meeting were representatives of

Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation
Hiawatha First Nation
Huron Wendat First Nation
Mississaugas of Scugog First Nation
Williams Treaty First Nations
First Nations Engineering Services Limited – Liaison and First Nations co-ordination consultant retained by the Region

Glad to see the Plan includes alternative storm water management for those that remember Hurricane Hazel

Air quality is also an issue – especially along the 400 on weekends. Need to have the California standards for air emissions

Simcoe County has an Archeological map, but nobody is allowed to see it. The Region could have its' own archeologist or hire one to help.

On cultural heritage, the Plan speaks to undertaking an Archeological Master Plan. Is there any thought of expanding that to include cultural heritage sites, ceremonial sites and scared sites

- It's a good idea and one the Region will certainly look at.

Policy 8.1.4 speaks to engaging and consulting but not partnering. Would the Archeological Master Plan be developed with the First Nations as partners?

- Yes certainly.

Is there any potential within the Archeological Master Plan process to assist in building capacity in First Nations so that First Nations members can assist in the process? As part of the South-East Collector Archeological Services Inc. are giving a seminar for First Nations.

- The Region could certainly look at this.

Do area municipalities have to adhere to an Archeological Master Plan?

- The Regional Official Plan could require that local plans be undertaken and that they be conformed to in the planning and development process.

Is an Archeological Master Plan reviewed on the same time-frame as an official Plan?

- Good idea and one that could be built into the process along with protocols for consultation and capacity building so that First Nations representatives could accompany archeologists on-site. For major developments.

Georgina Island is the only Reserve in York Region, and have heard that when workers on some construction sites find remains and artifacts they are told to keep quiet about it. Need a site for the reburial of remains found during construction as well as somewhere for display and interpretation of artifacts found during construction. We have discussed this with Simcoe County, but nothing has happened yet. Wondering whether this could be pursued with York Region?

- This is something we will take back and discuss with others at the Region

Is all the Green area on Map 1 protected?

- Generally yes – In the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine only very limited development is permitted. These Plans are not up to be reviewed until 2015, and then you may find some changes in some areas but very little. The ROP contains a policy that indicates the Region will review it's employment land supply in 2015 and review whether some of the lands in the Greenbelt or Oak Ridges Moraine along the 400 series highways should be redesignated for employment uses.

Has there been any thought given to bringing in First Nations cultural history with such things as street names, area names?

- Interesting idea and we will take that back.

In the sidebar on page 27 should be acknowledged that First Nations are still residents of the area.

- Yes we will undertake some re-wording in this sidebar.

First Nations noted concern with the development and expansion of aggregate operations. It was question what role the Region plays in the expansion development of aggregate operations?

- York Region is commenting agency.

What about access to green areas for First Nations collection of medicinal and ceremonial plants and herbs like cedar and sweet grass?

- Not all the green areas are owned by the region or other public agencies, but on owned lands would be willing to go back and discuss with Regional Forestry staff to see what we can do in this area on our lands.

Need some way of streamlining the volume of information that First Nations review. Potentially have a meeting with First nations every year to go over the upcoming projects and discuss anticipated level of First Nations interest, based on such variables as location of work, impact on physical surroundings, magnitude of project, proximity to First Nations Reserve and to water and food sources, potential archeological sites ceremonial site and sacred sites (identified in Archeological Master Plan)

- These are good ideas we'll take them back and discuss.

Include the “Georgina Island Indian Reserve”, including Georgina Island, Fox and Snake Islands as well as mainland properties that are part of the Reserve and label as such on Maps to the Plan and include key natural heritage features on the lands. Consult with the Georgina Island representative regarding a Map showing these features.