

Feedback – Town of Georgina

- Problem with mass transit (such as YRT and VIVA) is that we aren't all working 9 to 5 – still need to drive to Toronto - highways are what I need
- To add to that – was hoping that the Go Trains would have an all-day schedule to assist non 9 to 5 workers
- Where does the OMB fit into the process- need to rein the Board in – they have a lot of power
- Main concern is the proliferation of sod farms – which should be called sod extraction industries –sod industries are taking away topsoil. This is the equivalent of building houses on it – it's a monoculture and once it's gone you can't get it back



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Feedback

- Sod farms take away the ability of the land to support a viable ecosystem— need to register sod farms as extraction industries and regulate them to ensure monitoring for fertilizers
- These sod farms are considered a farm and get government tax deductions – when they take the topsoil and then close them down they leave chemical laced lands - what happens to the land after the sod farming stops?
- Heard that ethanol is a potential fuel of the future – Ethanol could be produced from sugar beets, but need need good farmland for this crop – where will the land be – sod farms cannot produce crops that make ethanol
- When you talk about job creation, you speak about manufacturing jobs, service jobs, construction jobs but you need to also talk about farming and job creation in that sector



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- In this country we're building the wrong types of houses, in Europe many communities have a rainwater collection systems for lawn watering and can switch systems to collect water in cisterns or direct water for community services.
- I suggest that new buildings be required to have solar or wind power – buildings need to have changes to roof styles and Building Code to permit alternative energy – commercial buildings should be required to direct surpluses of up to 30% energy to the grid
- Planners should push the requirement for 20 to 30 % alternative power
- Echo what gentlemen said – important to create right environment for it to happen – Research and development is needed to ensure it happens and would like to see other examples as well such as ground source energy and energy from waste



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- Lake Simcoe one of the most important natural heritage features, need to deal with storm and waste water – need to protect the resource
- Would the quality of Lake Simcoe go down if we retrain to regular rainfall levels?
- Was there ever a study done about fossil fuel effect on the Lake?
- Assimilative Capacity Study (ACS) – will it help to direct growth and make growth decisions?
- The name would indicate that it should provide answers – limits and directions – modelling
- I'd like to comment on a couple of points. Firstly we need to add farmland to the issue list – we're importing food – this is not sustainable – need to identify and protect the farmland



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- Actually a contradiction to have the growth number first – then environment – we are looking to York Region for leadership to go to Provincial government to say – “we can’t take all this growth”
- Growth on one hand and protecting environment – those two not compatible – is there the political will to face up to it?
- “As comfortable and convenient as cities are, they don’t support us”
- Issue of the movement of water – taking sewage from one side of the ORM to Lake Ontario – doesn’t seem sustainable



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- Want to have clarification on what approved growth means. In Sutton and Pefferlaw new development is going into green fields – a number of development were approved a decade ago
- Wanted to echo the comment about where businesses will go – want to encourage business development in the community
- When you put up map – ORMCP first then Greenbelt – both are Ontario Legislation –Lake Simcoe should also covered by legislation and should be designated as a Provincial area of concern



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- I think there is a piece of infrastructure missing from the Maps— trains should run from Union Station to Pefferlaw. The existing rail line should be used – York should sit down with CN and establish a rail line for transit – Bala subdivision – encouraging them to extend service to Bloomington
- There is a train on that line it's the Northlander - but it does not stop in York Region
- Applaud the pamphlet – sustainability should be expanded to 4 bubbles with the Arts representing the 4th bubble for the Arts making York a Region a welcoming place where diverse cultures and background are integrated



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Feedback

- There is a difference between Assimilative Capacity Study and the watershed Carrying Capacity – They are two different things and for all the modelling being undertaken there are still a lot of unknowns
- Climate change is going to be a major driver in temperate climates and even with the ACS we don't know the major extreme events are going to happen – very likely to happen
- Looking at the modelling on growth and sustainability – the Region should be leading it. The Region needs to look at other jurisdictions where this has already been done
- International water accords are against inter-basin transfers of water and sewage
- I have a suggestion that anybody owning land in the Greenbelt area shouldn't have to pay taxes- people in the developed areas should pay to play



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- On the news that if there were a severe storm then the Holland Marsh levees would be breached – what is York doing about that?
- Why are you focusing on buses when European light rail transit services would be more efficient?
- The Region uses buses to bring people from Georgina to the south part of the region – there should be light rail for long distances, then busses for short distance
- Surprised that only one comment on taxes – York Region consistently raises taxes – somewhere the impact of intensification on taxes needs to be forecasted or modelled
- What portion of the public transit costs are subsidized by government?



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- The ORMCP is in place - how can they let the Township of King run on septic tanks? More damaging than sewers
- YRT and VIVA should be using Biodiesel fuel in its buses? The engines on the existing fleet are the most polluting you could buy.
- Does York Region have a tree planting program for privately owned beach communities?



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