



# THE BULLETIN

A Brief Blog from the Board of the Mono Mulmur Citizens' Coalition

Issue #5 - MARCH 2022

## STOP THE DEVASTATING HIGHWAY 413 PROPOSAL

The Doug Ford Government is proposing to build a major highway (Hwy 413, formally the 'GTA West Transportation Corridor') that we feel would be an environmental disaster, a \$10 billion waste of money and a poor transportation solution.

The 413 proposal is intended to reduce traffic congestion but research, some of it done by the government's own Ministry of Transport, has demonstrated that at most it will save commuters zero to minimal driving time.

We are told it will add over 17 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and, according to Environmental Defence, will have resulted in more than \$1.4 billion in pollution damages. It will seriously undermine Canada's 2050 net zero climate change goals. And every taxpayer in Ontario will pay more for a highway that will benefit only a few thousand commuters in a limited area of Ontario.

The proposed 'GTA West Transportation Corridor' would stretch 59 kms from Hwy 400 in Vaughan in the East to the junction of Hwy 401 and 407 in the West (Halton). It will cut through the Greenbelt and pave over some of the best agricultural land in Canada. It will slice through the wetlands, headwaters, tributaries and forests that make the Greenbelt and this part of the GTA such a wonderful place to live. It is estimated that the 59-km 413 will require 103,840 truckloads of aggregate to build, suggesting more gravel pit approvals and degradation of local roads.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, most of us learned how important the Greenbelt, the Whitebelt, the walking trails, the woods and the wetlands around Toronto were to our recreation and to our mental health. Doug Ford promised to protect the Greenbelt. But that has not happened as the 413 proposal will pave over 400 acres of it. Is this the thin edge of the wedge to allow developers

access to the Greenbelt?

This Hwy 413 proposal represents obsolete planning practice. Almost every municipality along and near the proposed route has rejected it, specifically: Vaughan, Mississauga, Halton Hills, Peel Region, Halton Region, King City and Orangeville. Further, a recent EKOS survey cited in the Toronto Star shows that the public in the area impacted is substantially opposed to the 413 plan. There are better ways to relieve congestion without so much environmental damage and far less cost. But Doug Ford's government is not listening.

Who will benefit if Highway 413 goes ahead? As reported by the Toronto Star and the National Observer, it will be some of Ontario's most powerful land developers who just happen to own thousands of acres of prime real estate near the proposed route of Hwy 413.

## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO STOP THIS TERRIBLE PROPOSAL - SEE LINKS BELOW

- 1) E-mail Premier Doug Ford at [doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.fordco@pc.ola.org) and Transportation Minister Caroline Mulroney at [caroline.mulroneyco@pc.ola.org](mailto:caroline.mulroneyco@pc.ola.org).
- 2) E-mail your local MPP. There is an election coming in June 2022 and they will pay attention to your e-mails.
- 3) Ask Federal Environment Minister Stephen Guilbeault to conduct a FULL Federal Environmental Assessment at [Stephen.guilbeault@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Stephen.guilbeault@parl.gc.ca)

Environmental Defense has comprehensive information on the Hwy 413 proposal: <https://environmentaldefence.ca/stop-the-413-3/>

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## TOWN OF MONO COUNCIL

The delayed 2022 Town budget is finally approved. The good news is that Mono council managed to keep the 2022 budget increases to 2.4%. The last few sessions on council's agenda seem to be taking care of a lot of administrative matters. With Covid hopefully on the way out, council approved the "Chase the Coyote" event at Mono Cliff Park.

More good news, financing is in place to expand the courts for pickleball at Mono

College Park (8 Hawthorne Road, Cardinal Woods, County Road 16 & Hwy 10). Prepare for the appropriate line paintings so that the ever-increasing number of active citizens can enjoy this game.

Council directed staff to suggest ways to re-establish in-person public meetings or a combination thereof. Council will hold a Town Hall meeting on April 5th. Please stay tuned for the online details of how to participate.

Finally, this is an election year. Soon candidates will declare their intention to run for council office. We urge our members to pay attention to who is running for office and their platforms to ensure that their priorities are aligned with yours.

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## 2022 ELECTIONS

PROVINCIAL - JUNE 2  
MUNICIPAL - OCTOBER 24

MC² will be hosting some all-candidates meetings prior to the Municipal elections. Stay tuned for the dates and times of these events, and please come out and get to know your future candidates.

These are critical times and the pressures on our rural municipalities to bend to urban demand is great. Our towns are seeing more visitors as people from the urban core try to escape the concrete jungle for a day or two. Shepherding our towns and County safely through these challenges is going to take both commitment and vision.

It is very important to keep in mind that on

our local councils, it only takes 3 votes to make a new by law or to change an existing one. It is vitally important to pay close attention to who the candidates are, and what their priorities look like. Our futures are at stake, so please take the time to meet with the candidates, review their platforms and vote.

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## LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

It is quite natural in the course of any membership that the numbers will ebb and flow. Here at MC², we are very aware that a side impact of the pandemic has negatively affected our membership numbers. Similarly, it's impacted our ability as a volunteer board to connect and stay current with what's been going on. Despite the doom and gloom in the news, there is strong feeling that we are turning the corner, and that better days are ahead.

We encourage you to speak with your neighbours about the Mono Mulmur Citizens' Coalition. We encourage you to renew your membership for 2022, and to get some friends to sign up as well! Our local municipalities have seen a great many people from more urban areas move

into the area, looking for more space, more quiet and a more "rural" experience. This is wonderful news, but there have been some teething pains as many newcomers don't understand that a country property comes with obligations to respect both the water quality and the rights of their new neighbours. That country properties have by-laws concerning land use, noise, proper care of livestock, etc..

We are all the stewards of this landscape. It is up to us to bring to the attention of our respective towns the infractions when we notice them. Having an organized voice to help shine a light on challenges presenting themselves locally is a huge asset to the people who call these municipalities home.

On that note, we'd like to invite people to join our Environment Committee. This lively, creative group are actively looking for more members. The Environment Committee has been responsible for much of our Public Information Events, events we'd like to see continue as soon as it's deemed safe to gather publicly.

We'd also like to hear from any people interested in joining the board. Fresh perspectives and energy is always a boost to any volunteer organization. Please reach out to us at [info@monomulmur.com](mailto:info@monomulmur.com).

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Stay safe, stay healthy, stay connected – at a distance.  
ARNOLD, BOB, CHERYL, DEL, ELAINE, FELICITE, KNUT, and RITA

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