



# THE BULLETIN

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

Issue #9 - MARCH 2023

## THOUGHTS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Sounding like an old man... which of course I am... everything moves very quickly these days - technology, new products, materials, and of course, political decisions. From these decisions we get new encompassing laws that can often be inadequately challenged.

The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) have created "making the link" tool-kits to pair critically urgent environmental issues with some legal mechanisms for change and for public advocacy. They will highlight issues that impact particular communities

and give guidance on how to participate in the various environmental decision-making processes.

I urge you to stay engaged on the issues you care about and continue to let the politicians know your views.

## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT - WINTER 2023

A couple of committee members and other citizens of Mono and Mulmur attended an inspiring presentation in Caledon on "Learning to Regenerate the Earth" with Joe Brewer from Barichara, Colombia. The event was sponsored by the Legacy Project.

([www.legacyproject.org](http://www.legacyproject.org))

The people from the Legacy Project are visioning in terms of "7 generation" work within the GTA bioregion.

Joe began his presentation with a stark description of the traumatic process we all need to face about the state of the planet including the collapse of earth and human systems. Joe believes that with

regenerative practices focused on a bioregion (of which there are many small examples), one can create meaningful change. In other words, the region has to be a large enough landscape that is more or less sustainable for all creatures living in that space. Projects need to be created with regard to and within said landscape.

The idea is to ask *what is the ecologically appropriate scale within this landscape - rather than how far we can push the resources of this region*. The latter is what we have been doing and what our current provincial government continues to do.

Using the example of the Sahal region in sub-Saharan Africa, Joe emphasized the interdependence of global systems and

the time delayed effects which they influence. Earth scientists have been able to prove that the industrialization of Europe (most particularly the burning of coal) caused sulphate aerosols to increase dramatically from 1870 to the 1940s. The increase of these aerosols in the atmosphere has caused the shutdown of the Sahel Monsoon; beginning in the late 1960s and continuing onward, causing sub-Saharan drought, starvation and resource conflicts which continue to this day in this region.

Joe has written a book called *The Design Pathway* and is active on social media with various blogs. We encourage you to read his work.

## NOTES FROM THE TOWN OF MONO

Mono's new council got busy as soon as they were elected. Several items of interest are notable. First, Mono Council decided to try holding daytime only meetings for the next year, rather than alternating evening

and morning meetings. The intent of this change is to facilitate more citizen participation. Historically evening meetings have not been well attended due to the late hour of conclusion. It is noteworthy that

as the meetings are broadcast live and can be viewed at leisure on YouTube, it is easier for citizens to stay in touch with all issues being considered by council.

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## NOTES FROM THE TOWN OF MONO (continued)

The application for a hearing before the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board (concerning the importation of fill for a racetrack on the 4th Line) has had its first procedural meeting and concluded with the dates set for the hearing. If interested, the hearing dates are set for March 14 and 15. There is a link on the town website that directs you to register to participate in the online hearing.

Both the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority have submitted to Council their reports with regards to implications deriving from Bill 23. We assume that all other conservation authorities have or will follow the same route and report to councils the effects or implications Bill 23 will have for them.

On March 2<sup>nd</sup> Town Council held a special session to deal with the budget and the Optimus SBR recommendations. The new Council has inherited the consequences of various new legislation initiatives coming from the provincial omnibus bills and the increase in inflation. This downloading of responsibilities and inflationary trend caused Council to revise their 2023 budget. They reviewed the new proposed budget line by line with the intent to keep tax increases reasonable and yet meet all service needs. The next session of Council will be a public session on the budget where the public will have their opportunity for input before Council makes their final decision.

At this same special meeting, Council also considered the recommendations of

Optimus SBR's review of standard services delivery. The SBR report has ten main recommendations, two of which propose an increase of two staffers to realign the office work and make customer service more in line with other municipalities. Council met "in camera" due to the nature of the subject and their decision will be made public once a final decision is made.

With the use of live broadcasts, it's very easy to sit and watch Council deliberations on the various issues. It is also very easy to follow up at a later date when time is available through watching the YouTube recording of these meetings. We suggest you make a point of watching, it is your town and your tax dollars at work.

## NOTES FROM MULMUR TOWNSHIP

Thanks to changes in the Conservation Authorities Act, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation (NVCA) will no longer be providing comments on matters such as wildlife habitat, threatened/endangered species, areas of natural scientific interest, environmental sensitive areas, woodlands, natural heritage systems and fish habitat; in addition to select aspects of stormwater management. The NVCA will continue to provide plan review and comment on mandatory programs and services, which includes natural hazards. All the non-mandatory matters will now be the responsibility of the municipality for review. Since most municipalities don't have the expertise in-house, that will require hiring

outside firms, which is yet another cost downloaded to municipalities. Mulmur has initiated the tendering process.

The federal Electoral Boundary Commission has decided to keep the townships of East Garafraxa and Mulmur within the Dufferin-Caledon electoral district (rather than placing Mulmur in Simcoe and East Garafraxa in Wellington). A big 'thank you' to Mayor Horner for being very vocal on this issue.

Council passed the 2023 budget with a 5.05% increase. Each year there is a mandatory Public Meeting on the budget. It's our chance to have input and there were

only three people in the gallery.

A question was raised at the March Council Meeting about access to Council deliberations. It is felt that the brevity of the minutes does not adequately inform as to the happenings of the meetings. Mayor Horner said that after Council training in May they are hoping to begin taping the meetings for public view, thereby addressing the issue.

A section of 15 Sideroad from Dufferin County Road 18 (Airport Rd.) to a point 100 meters west of the intersection of the 5th Line EHS will have its speed reduced to 60 kilometres per hour.

## NOTES FROM DUFFERIN COUNTY

County Council has approved the 2023 budget with a tax levy of \$44,899,761, about a 4.13% increase. This includes six new positions and additional housekeeping hours at Dufferin Oaks.

The Township of Amaranth and the Town of Grand Valley will be the hosts for the International Plowing Match and Rural

Expo (IPM) which will take place in Amaranth (Bowling Green) from Tuesday, September 19th to Saturday, September 23rd, 2023. This agricultural event is expected to bring upwards of 80,000 visitors to the area over the 5 day period. Council received the report from the Director of Development and Tourism and the Chief Administrative Officer and voted

to support the International Plowing Match (IPM); and that funds totalling \$787,000 be added to the 2023 budget to provide support and resources. The actual funding needed from the County has been vigorously debated. I encourage you to read the Addendum to the February 7th Council Meeting, it is a fascinating report.