



## Recommendations for 2014 Oro-Medonte Official Plan Review

By the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition and AWARE Oro-Medonte - April 2014

The members of the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition and AWARE Oro-Medonte request that the Township of Oro-Medonte incorporate the following recommendations into the new Official Plan (OP) to conform to the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP) and to best protect Oro-Medonte's forests and wetlands, and Lake Simcoe.

- ✦ Include a target in the OP to protect 40 percent high quality natural vegetative cover in the Lake Simcoe watershed portion of Oro-Medonte, and create an action plan to achieve that target.
- ✦ Adopt and use the Ministry of Natural Resources' draft definitions of "key natural heritage features" and "key hydrologic features" for LSPP policy 6.30-SA.
- ✦ Simplify the OP by reducing the number of environmental designations; namely EP, EP1, and EP2. Create a new environmental protection designation that will conform to the protection legislated by the LSPP for "key natural heritage features" and "key hydrologic features", called Environmental Protection for Woodlands and Wetlands (EPWW). This would make the OP easier to use and understand.
- ✦ Place the following features into the EPWW designation:
  - ✦ *The Rail Trail Greenlands, all the undeveloped woodlands and wetlands that are between the Ridge Road and the developed areas along the Lake Simcoe shoreline and between Barrie and Orillia, excluding the current built up areas.*
  - ✦ All key natural heritage features as defined by LSPP policy 6.21-DP (wetlands, significant woodlands, significant valleylands and natural areas abutting Lake Simcoe).
  - ✦ All key hydrologic heritage features as defined by policy 6.22-DP (wetlands, permanent and intermittent streams, and lakes other than Simcoe).
  - ✦ All areas of high quality natural cover that are 25 hectares or greater.

- ⤴ Update policies applying to lands adjacent to key natural heritage system and key hydrologic features to conform to the LSPP.
- ⤴ Update the map “Township of Oro-Medonte Official Plan Natural Features - Schedule B”; to make it clear and easy for residents, developers and planners to see what areas are off-limits to development.
- ⤴ Solicit information about the habitats of endangered species in order to increase the level of protection from EP2 to EP1 where appropriate.
- ⤴ Adopt the recommendations in the forthcoming Shoreline Management Strategy, which stems from LSPP policy 6.12 and 6.13-SA.
- ⤴ Commit to taking action on these two LSPP policies in the updated OP:
  - ⤴ 6.14-SA: Public bodies are encouraged to actively re-naturalize public areas adjacent to shorelines and streams to a minimum of 30 metres where practical and feasible.
  - ⤴ 6.15-SA: Through the implementation of the stewardship, education and outreach policies (8.5-8.11) owners of existing cottages and residences will be encouraged to re-naturalize shorelines and areas adjacent to streams up to 30 metres where practical and feasible.
- ⤴ Ensure that a hydrological assessment is completed prior to granting planning approvals for new waterfront lots to ensure that the density of development will not cause the nitrate limit to be exceeded. (See MOE Guideline D-5-4). Small lot development should be restricted to sites that meet the highest recommended standards for nitrate control.
- ⤴ Make the criteria for creating new lots more restrictive.
- ⤴ Where possible, we suggest that owners of large lots in Settlement Areas be allowed subdivide and or sever their lots into one or more lots. This recommendation allows for the creation of new lots in existing Settlement Areas in Oro-Medonte without losing natural cover.
- ⤴ For the mandatory septic inspection program, insist that inspectors are trained and carry proper certification in order to carry out septic inspections for the Township. The inspectors should be prepared to explain to the homeowner how and why the procedure would result in an assurance that their septic system meets or exceeds the standards. As a minimum, we recommend that the Township set up a website that shows how the septic inspections should be performed.

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