



GEORGINA

April 4, 2024

Office of the Regional Chairman and CEO
York Region Administrative Centre
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

Dear Chairman Emmerson,

On March 5th, 2024, the Town of Georgina held a Special Council meeting focused on addressing Homelessness and Affordable Housing within our community. York Region staff worked closely with Town staff to plan and deliver what was an engaging and productive meeting. Kevin Pal, General Manager of Social Services and Karen Antonio-Hadcock, General Manager of Housing Services - alongside speakers from the Town, non-profits and Danielle Zanotti from the United Way of Greater Toronto, delivered exceptional presentations that sparked great discussion.

Town Council is in full agreement that immediate action be taken to address homelessness and affordable housing in Georgina.

In this regard, the attached resolution was unanimously passed at the end of the Special Council meeting on March 5, 2024. It is a resolution that recognizes that all levels of government, along with the private sector and non-profits, play a critical role in tackling this issue and that coordination and partnerships between all stakeholders is necessary for success.

I would like to bring your attention to the first three items of the resolution, which direct Town staff to:

Item #1:

Continue to consult with York Region, as the Provincially designated lead for Housing and Homelessness, on partnership opportunities for addressing homelessness in Georgina and increasing the number of affordable community housing units in the Town, including the identification of specific actions within their 10-year plans.

OUR ASK: That York Region Community & Health Services staff continue to work with Town staff to advance the above item.

Item #2:

Encourage continued partnerships and coordination of resources between York Region, local grassroots organizations, businesses and local individuals with respect to resources being provided throughout the community.

OUR ASK: A request for York Region to lead a working group that would work to enhance supports and help address the more immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness (e.g. sleeping outside) and searching for shelter. We ask that the group include reps from York Region (C&HS, YRP, etc.), the Town (Fire, By-laws, Community Services), Non-profits (Routes, Inn-From-The-Cold, Salvation Army, local Georgina group called SOS, etc.), the Northern York South Simcoe OHT, etc.

Item #3:

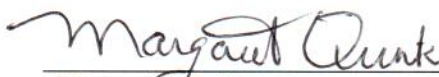
Send a written request to continue to fund/operate a seasonal shelter(s) within Georgina permanently and expand the hours of existing shelter operations to seven days/week and include daytime drop-in hours, recognizing Georgina is a large community and additional shelters may be required in multiple locations, and that transportation to these shelters be made readily available.

OUR ASK: We ask that staff from York Region Community and Health Services Department make it a priority to analyze the homelessness shelter needs within and across Georgina with the goal of having the following provisions in place by winter 2024/2025:

- Converting the Inn from the Cold shelter at the Maple Hill Baptist Church in Keswick to a full-time seasonal shelter with daytime drop-in hours; or provide an alternative location in Keswick that will meet these needs;
- Providing additional shelters, if required, in Sutton and/or Pefferlaw, to better address the needs stemming from Georgina's expansive geography and multiple communities;
- Addressing any gaps in transporting people experiencing homelessness to shelters. Again, Georgina's unique geographical expanse makes this provision necessary.

York Region's support with the above is truly appreciated. We look forward to working with York Region staff and other key partners to address this growing Regional and community issue that impacts our most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,



Margaret Quirk,
Mayor, Town of Georgina



Naomi Davison
Regional Councillor

Copy to: Katherine Chislett, Commissioner, Community & Health Services
Kevin Pal, General Manager of Social Services
Karen Antonio-Hadcock, General Manager of Housing Services

**Moved by Regional Councillor Davison
Seconded by Councillor Neeson**

Following the presentations and discussions at the March 5th Special Council Meeting, Council now directs Town Staff to:

1. Continue to consult with York Region, as the Provincially designated lead for Housing and Homelessness, on partnership opportunities for addressing homelessness in Georgina and increasing the number of affordable community housing units in the Town, including the identification of specific actions within their 10 year plans.
2. Encourage continued partnerships and coordination of resources between York Region, local grass roots organizations, businesses and local individuals with respect to resources being provided throughout the community.
3. Send a written request to York Region to continue to fund/operate a seasonal shelter(s) within Georgina permanently and expand the hours of shelter operations to seven days/week and include daytime drop-in hours, recognizing Georgina is a large community and additional shelters may be required in multiple locations, and that transportation to these shelters be made readily available.
4. Consult/negotiate with Treasure Hill (and other development industry partners where applicable) on a partnership framework to build a multi-unit rental housing development and/or smaller entry-level private ownership units, encouraging the building of housing opportunities at all levels.
5. Consult with the United Way of Greater Toronto and others on partnership opportunities to create deeply affordable housing units in the Town.
6. Consult with development industry partners on incorporating finished or roughed-in accessory apartment units within new ground related housing units.
7. Identify on a preliminary basis existing and possible additional financial/other incentives that could be explored to foster more affordable housing units.
8. Identify resources (financial, staffing and community organizations) required to drive forward potential initiatives aimed at providing more affordable housing options for our various demographic groups, including seniors.
9. Continue to review the provision of Town-owned lands for the development of purpose-built rental and deeply affordable units.
10. Bring forward a business case as part of the 2025 budget deliberation process that proposes dedicated annual funding of \$25,000 for the Georgina Food Pantry and that staff return to a subsequent meeting in Q2 of 2024 regarding potential funding details or in-kind contributions for the Good Food Collective and its community lunches for the remainder of 2024.
11. Report back to Council in Q3 on the above, which may need to be dealt with in closed session if discussing acquisition/disposition of property.

Carried.