

Council Memorandum

Date:	June 17, 2025
To:	Roads Task Force
From:	Councillor Warren
Re:	Salt Management

Recommendation

That the Memorandum from Councillor Warren regarding, **Salt Management**, be received; and

That the City supports the resolutions of the Town of Georgina urging the Provincial Government to develop a single set of provincially-endorsed standard Best Management Practices for snow and ice management, and to fund the creation of an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the province and municipalities on actions to protect freshwater ecosystems and drinking water from the impacts of salt pollution; and

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, the Minister of Health, and the Association of the Municipalities of Ontario; and,

That this recommendation be forwarded to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Rationale

Road salt is a toxic substance designated under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act for its threat of serious and irreversible environmental and public health concerns.



Salt levels have been worsening since the 1970s, especially in our groundwater aquifers and freshwater creeks, rivers and lakes, largely due to runoff from the use of salt for winter maintenance. This is concerning for our municipal drinking water sources as well as for the health of our ecosystems and wildlife and aquatic life that depend on them.

With our commitment to a healthy environment, we should be supporting all efforts to maintain and even improve the health of our lakes, rivers, and freshwater systems. Even though steps have been taken to monitor and set guidelines for voluntary codes of practice, the salinity concentrations continue to increase. It is important to continue to work with the province to develop a single set of standard practices for salt management and to urge them to create and fund an advisory committee dedicated to providing best practices to protect freshwater ecosystems and drinking water from the impacts of salt pollution.