



Ontario Pumped Storage Project

Community Update
October 2022

Message from the Project Director

On behalf of the project team, I am pleased to share this update on our Ontario Pumped Storage Project (OPS). It's been a busy and productive several months as we've enhanced our community engagement efforts, further refined our design to protect and preserve Georgian Bay and begun the important work of ensuring that your community realizes the full economic benefits that the Project can generate locally.

We are committed to contributing to Meaford now and for the long term and are pleased to have begun discussions with municipal staff around a potential Community Betterment Agreement, as directed by Meaford Municipal Council.

We've undertaken many initiatives this past summer and into this fall to ensure that we are truly able to hear from you, including opening a Community Information Centre in Meaford, launching a new website dedicated to Meaford-specific information, organizing weekly community coffee chats and having our representatives go door to door to get your opinions and to hear your feedback.

We will continue to work towards a truly collaborative, inclusive, community-based approach as we seek to develop a needed clean energy storage project that protects Georgian Bay and the local environment.

John Mikkelsen, P.Eng. M.A.Sc.
Project Director

We are Listening

From the start of this project, we have been committed to listening to your feedback. After all, this is your home and you know it best. When you told us you wanted our original design enhanced for the preservation of Georgian Bay and the local environment, we used that feedback to make significant project design changes to maximize protection of the ecosystem, the local environment and Georgian Bay.

We continue to be committed to finding ways to listen to the community. **We have opened a Community Information Centre at 390 Sykes Street North**, where community members can drop in to view a 3D model and ask questions. We also

host weekly small group community coffee chats so we can hear directly from you. You can find out more and register for a coffee chat on our new community website poweredbymeaford.com.



Earlier this summer we began to canvass door-to-door in Meaford to let residents know about the Project, answer questions and invite residents to a coffee chat. **By the time you read this, we will have knocked on more than 90% of the residential doors in Meaford.**

You asked what we are doing to support the charities and social initiatives that are currently underway locally. Here are some highlights:

May: In partnership with the **Bruce Trail Conservancy** and **Tree Canada**, we donated and planted more than **250 cedar saplings** in **Woodford**.

August: we led the **Wounded Warriors Canada Meaford Ride for Mental Health** for military veterans and their families and raised more than **\$12,000**. Also in August, we supported the **Meaford Curling Club** and the **Meaford Lawn Bowling Club**.

September: we sponsored and participated in a **Habitat for Humanity** build initiative in the **Saugeen First Nation**.

December: We donated over **\$10,000** to the **Meaford Food Bank** last year.

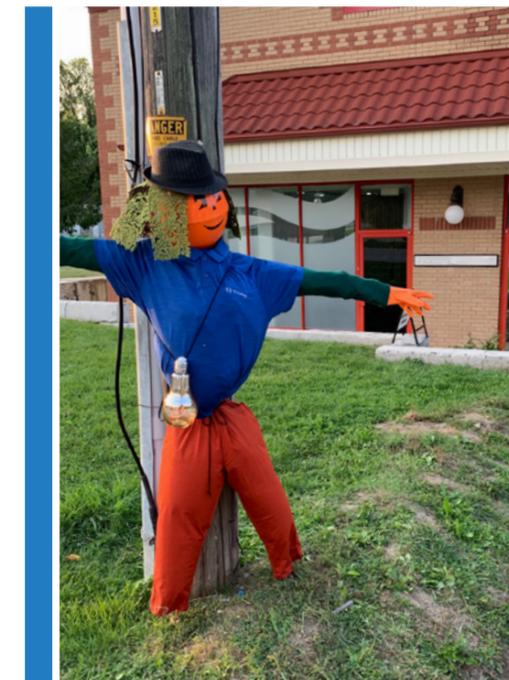
Ongoing: We encourage any charitable organization based or operating in Meaford to apply for cash grants, in-kind donations or sponsorship through TC Energy's Build Strong website (www.tcenergy.com/buildstrong). It takes only minutes to fill out the online application form.



More than 20 TC Energy volunteers planted cedar saplings with Tree Canada... but not before visiting with some frogs.



TC Energy volunteers measuring a deck to be constructed as part of the Grey Bruce Habitat for Humanity build in Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation in November 2021.



Our Community Information Centre joined the fun in the Meaford Scarecrow Invasion, which celebrated its 25th year.

Protecting Georgian Bay

We've heard that protecting Georgian Bay is your top priority. You want to know that we are protecting fish and fish habitat, that we're taking care to ensure not to disturb sediments and other lakebed debris, and that we are preserving the Niagara Escarpment.

Here's how we are doing that:

The structures that move water to and from Georgian Bay will be located in deep water far from the shore, with screens **to protect fish and other aquatic life.**

Water will flow into and out of the structures at speeds similar to Georgian Bay's natural currents, enabling fish to **avoid the structures and ensuring water clarity is not impacted.**

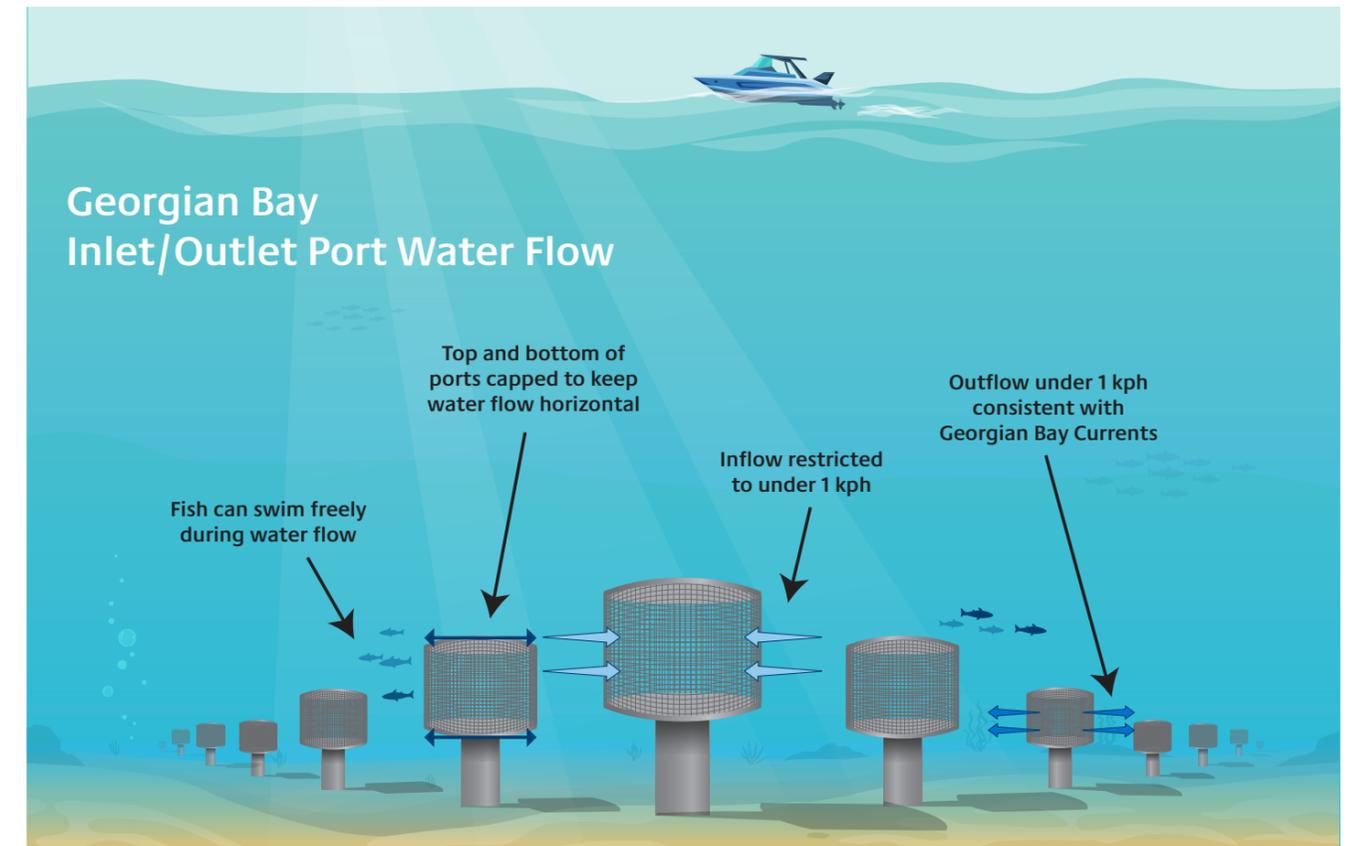
Most of the infrastructure at the **Meaford Tank Range will be underground and not visible from Meaford,** built using tunnelling techniques that minimize ground disturbances and preserve the existing Niagara Escarpment, vegetation and habitat.

The transmission line will run along the **lakebed of Georgian Bay to avoid on-shore routing** through the important agricultural and recreational lands of the Niagara Escarpment.

Before we can begin construction, the project will undergo rigorous provincial and federal environmental and impact assessments, prepared by independent professional environmental consultants and reviewed and tested by government regulatory agencies. The content and requirements of the environmental and impact assessments are set by federal and provincial regulatory authorities and the Project will adhere to all regulatory processes and requirements. We have been gathering data and feedback from public engagement to prepare the documents needed to launch the assessments and expect to be ready to start the formal public processes in spring 2023.



The redesign includes buried powerhouse, penstock, tunneling and deep-water diffused inlet/outlet port systems. This is supported by a buried underwater transmission cable to avoid overland routes.



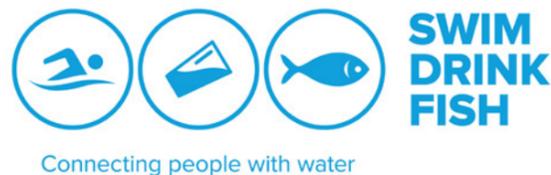
The 20 risers, spread out over 1.5kms in a semi-circle, will ensure water going into the system and being put back into deep water matches the currents found 800m off the shoreline of Georgian Bay.

As part of our ongoing efforts to consult on the design of the Project, we have engaged with regional, provincial, and national environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS), including Ducks Unlimited, Swim, Drink, Fish (formerly Waterkeepers Ontario), Ontario Nature, Pollution Probe, Georgian Bay Forever, Pembina Institute, Clean Energy Canada, Nature Conservancy Canada/WWF Canada, and Wildlands League (CPAWS Ontario). We have been pleased to have these opportunities to answer questions and look forward to continued dialogue with these organizations.



“Pollution Probe has worked for decades to protect the health of the Great Lakes and to better understand the impacts of different energy futures. *TC Energy’s* proposed *Ontario Pumped Storage Project* is a positive example of how an open engagement process and a willingness to consider the community’s input can contribute to shaping infrastructure projects with both of these objectives in mind. Pollution Probe will continue to consult with *TC Energy* and the Georgian Bay community as the pumped storage project moves through the environmental assessment process to ensure the protection of the local environment remains a key focus.”

- **Chris Hilkene, CEO, Pollution Probe**



“Addressing water pollution is always a top priority. By creating an innovative design based on public feedback, their [*TC Energy*] proposed deep water, inlet-outlet diffuse water infrastructure; their buried powerhouse and tunneling systems; and openness and transparency in their designs gives us confidence that this energy storage project will help address pollution issues in Georgian Bay. We look forward to seeing how this *Ontario Pumped Storage Project* unfolds.”

- **Mark Mattson, President and CEO, Swim, Drink, Fish**



In The Field

Since 2020, we have been conducting field studies to gather data to understand the environment in its current condition so we can continue to ensure that we are taking all measures needed to protect the ecosystem, Georgian Bay and the local environment.

We undertake firsthand studies to fully understand the local conditions. We collect data on the aquatic environment, including fish, fish habitat and water quality, on land for vegetation, wetlands, wildlife and wildlife habitat, groundwater, archaeology and cultural heritage. We also conducted soil sampling.

The technical data gathered, along with information and feedback provided by local residents, Indigenous groups, and environmental agencies, has been and will continue to be used to refine our design and will be the basis for the federal and provincial regulatory assessment processes.

The following are some of the field studies happening this fall:

- Fall aquatics (Sept/Oct) - For the third autumn in a row, we are conducting a full suite of studies in the waters near the base and near Wasaga Beach, including acoustic detection and netting of fish, habitat mapping, water quality and sediment sampling and the deployment and retrieval of scientific monitoring devices.
- Fall reptile survey (Sept) – this study, part of the continued work (begun in spring 2021) to document the seasonal presence of snakes, took place on the base at the end of September, the period when snakes begin to congregate and prepare for winter hibernation.
- Fall groundwater monitoring (ongoing) – seasonal groundwater monitoring will continue each season through 2023 and beyond. Groundwater monitoring is conducted within the Project area on the base but may be expanded if neighboring residents want their wells included in the monitoring program.
- Geotechnical borehole – boreholes are needed to build our knowledge of local bedrock conditions and have previously been drilled in key areas within our Project area on the base. An additional borehole will be drilled this fall. This work will not be seen or heard outside of the base.



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