

Geoff Fardy - Candidate for Regional Councillor

ELECTION UPDATE NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Hello Georgina Residents!

It's been roughly seven weeks since I announced my candidacy for Regional Councillor, and I have had hundreds of conversations across our community. To prove that I am listening, I have prepared this newsletter to outline key items I am adding to my campaign platform/my "To-Do List" for giving taxpayers a voice **all year long**, not just during election years.

When I launched my bid for Regional Councillor, I promised to control municipal spending and deliver meaningful change. With Canadians facing tough economic headwinds and trade pressures, freezing taxes is essential. With the support of my fellow councillors, I will push for **zero property tax increases** over the next term, keeping rates flat until our economy stabilizes.

Action needs I am hearing most frequently:

- **Responsible Spending:** Lavish spending of money we do not yet have, resulting in years of interest payments, must end.
 - **Restore Transparency:** Provide honest news updates and improve access to information.
 - **Direct Democracy:** Establish an accessible online polling system so every taxpayer has a say—not just the few who can attend Town Hall meetings.
 - **Core Infrastructure:** Fix aging infrastructure before expanding to new subdivisions, upgrade our roads, and launch a real Business Development Plan.
 - **Protect Seniors:** Ensure our seniors are not priced out of their homes by rising property taxes.
 - **Empower Youth:** Build robust work and training opportunities locally.
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Frequently Asked Questions & Policy Plans

1. Lake Drive Pedway

Q: What are your thoughts on how Lake Drive is divided each year?

My Take: The current pedway configuration is unsafe, ineffective, and a poor use of almost \$1 million in taxpayer funds:

- **Unfair to Residents:** Residents face one-way restrictions and hazardous access points caused by traffic pylons. Lakefront homeowners are now looking at green traffic bollards.

- **Safety & Enforcement Issues:** The pedway experiences constant traffic violations and fails to help pedestrians safely cross at busy beach areas.

My Action Plan:

I will work to cancel this program and replace it with a permanent, practical solution: paving the rough edges and shoulders to widen Lake Drive by one foot on each side. This will eliminate hazardous drops for cyclists and pedestrians while maintaining smooth traffic flow and allowing 2-way traffic.

2. Supporting Business & Local Employment

Q: How will you improve existing businesses and attract new jobs to Georgina?

My Take: When local businesses thrive, our whole community benefits. Business owners consistently report three major hurdles: onerous permit processes, low "shop local" engagement, and difficulty retaining trained staff.

My Action Plan:

- **Youth Training Program:** Launch a co-funded apprenticeship program where the Town covers \$5.00/hour for positions at a minimum of 24 hours per week per youth worker, leveraging provincial/federal grants to keep it sustainable.
 - **Job Creation Tax Relief:** Introduce tiered municipal tax discounts for new businesses based on local hiring (Tier 1 for 5–10 full-time jobs; Tier 2 for 10–20 jobs; Maximum discount for 20+ jobs over 3 years).
 - **"Building Georgina" Incentive:** Offer a 50% discount on building permits for commercial upgrades, paired with one-time renovation grants for businesses expanding local employment.
 - **"Passport to Shopping Georgina":** Implement a seasonal rewards campaign to incentivize residents to support local merchants.
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3. Transparency & Communication

Q: How will you improve communication with residents between election cycles?

My Take: Taxpayers deserve full visibility into how their money is spent every month of the year.

My Action Plan:

1. **Quarterly Progress Reports:** Published on a dedicated, interactive website and delivered via email newsletter to outline ongoing projects and address community concerns.
2. **Interactive Citizen Polling:** Host online feedback portals where residents can weigh in directly on major spending decisions and regional issues before council votes.

3. **Quarterly "Coffee Talks":** Host informal town hall meetups to answer questions, hear concerns, and talk directly with community members.
 4. **Monthly Infrastructure Updates:** Collaborate with Council to publish a clear status dashboard covering timelines and budgets for major public works (e.g., Lake Drive/Kennedy Road water treatment projects and High Street bridge repairs).
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4. Community Safety & Crime Prevention

Q: What is your response to rising concerns around local crime?

My Take: Ensuring safe neighborhoods requires proactive law enforcement and modern technology.

My Action Plan:

- **Regional Police Board:** Seek a seat on the York Regional Police Services Board to advocate directly for Georgina's security needs.
 - **Increased Frontline Presence:** Push for additional officer hiring/allocations to improve response times and neighborhood patrols.
 - **Expand Tech-Based Policing:** Scale up successful initiatives like the Drone Project and introduce CCTV coverage (NOT speed cameras) at key intersections to assist police in identifying suspect vehicles and deterring crime.
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5. Managing Taxes & Municipal Budgets

Q: Why do property, water, and sewer fees keep increasing?

My Take: Rising living costs affect every family in our town. Property taxes are split between Education (13%), Municipal (54%), and Regional (33%), regional rate increases account for a substantial portion of recent bill increases.

My Action Plan:

- **Municipal Tax Freeze:** Propose a freeze on the municipal portion of property taxes and propose lower increases on the regional portion.
 - **Strict Priority Spending:** Distinguish essential infrastructure and safety needs from discretionary projects. We may see water and sewer fee increase relief if we can use other tax dollars to take care of these important projects.
 - **Continuous Resident Feedback:** Use informal polling throughout the year so Council allocates discretionary funds based on true taxpayer priorities.
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6. Addressing Long-Term Debt

Q: How can Georgina pay down its long-term financial liabilities?

My Take: Overcoming long-term debt requires disciplined, business-minded leadership and cooperation across Council. We need practical fiscal management to ensure future debt isn't passed down to residents. Ask many current council members about the recent spending on the MURC and the Civic Centre and they will tell you the MURC did not cost taxpayers a cent, its all paid by Development Charges. “Which is our money!!”

Insight Feature: Understanding Development Charges

(Excerpt adapted from analysis by Andy Prevost, [Georgina Grassroots](#))

"Growth Pays for Growth" — But What Happens When Revenue Drops?

Development Charges (DCs) are fees collected on new construction to fund infrastructure like roads, parks, and fire services. However, relying on future development to cover present-day debt carries risks if building activity slows down.

The Numbers:

- **Accumulated Debt:** As of 2026, Georgina's total existing and approved debt stands at approximately **\$127.5 Million**, with roughly **\$66.4 Million** expected to be covered by future DC collections (including major obligations for the Multi-Use Recreation Complex and the South Keswick Fire Hall).
- **DC Revenue Drop:** Annual DC collections fell from **\$9.08 Million in 2023** to **\$2.65 Million in 2025**—a reduction of approximately **71% over two years**.
- **Reserve Transfers:** In 2025, while **\$2.65 Million** in new DC revenue was collected, **\$5.48 Million** was drawn from reserves for capital projects, reducing reserve balances from \$24.19 Million to \$22.41 Million.

Financial projections depend on housing growth, but debt payments require steady, realized revenue. Responsible municipal planning requires balancing current budgets without over-relying on future expansion.

Make Your Voice Heard!

- **Election Day:** October 26th (*Check local announcements for early voting options*)
- **Official Campaign Website:** <https://www.geofffardy4georgina.ca/>

Voting & Local Resources

For official election details, voter eligibility requirements, and local governance updates in York Region, visit the official [Town of Georgina Website](#) or the [York Region Official Portal](#).