

To: Go Home Bay Residents

From: Board of Directors (the "Board") of The Madawaska Club of Go Home Bay

Topic: Proposed Merger of Municipalities within the District of Muskoka - Encouraging Public Comment by May 21<sup>st</sup> Comment Deadline

It has recently been brought to the Board's attention that the Ontario Government (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing) is proposing to merge the municipalities within the District of Muskoka, including the Township of Georgian Bay (the "Township"), into one municipality. The Government believes this will achieve their objectives of greater efficiency and effectiveness by reducing mayors, councilors and senior staff positions. This merger proposal is in the first stage of its public consultation period and the deadline for public comment on this initiative is May 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Board's main concern with this merger proposal - and this is an issue for all Go Home Bay & Georgian Bay coastal residents - is that it will significantly diminish our community's control over planning regulations (future Official Plans and Zoning Bylaws) and planning management and enforcement. A related concern that the Board has with this initiative is that, as there are very limited services our coastal community can receive, merging the Township with in-land municipalities will likely result in our community paying for a greater range of services that we cannot use.

The Mayor of the Township has submitted an alternative proposal to the Government requesting that the area west of Highway 400, but excluding Port Severn, be split off from the rest of the District and remain a standalone municipality (the "Alternative Proposal"). As we believe that the interests of residents in the Georgian Bay coastal municipalities are aligned on issues such as planning, protecting the environment, and waste management, the Board supports the Alternative Proposal.

**The Board recommends that Go Home Bay residents oppose the merger of the Township with the other municipalities in the District of Muskoka and support the Alternative Proposal.**

We are encouraging all Go Home Bay residents of the Township of the Georgian Bay to submit their views on this important matter by May 21st at:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-regional-government-review#section-3>

Given the tight timeline to submit comments, we suggest that concerned Go Home Bay residents submit their comments to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing by email at [regionalgovreview@ontario.ca](mailto:regionalgovreview@ontario.ca).