

LOCAL LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Advancing Practical Green Solutions in Bradford West Gwillimbury

Councillor Jonathan Scott

*Chair, Green Initiatives Advisory Committee (GIAC),
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury*

Bradford
west
Gwillimbury



A Growing Tradition

A black and white photograph of Jonathan Scott, a man with a beard wearing a patterned blazer, standing and presenting to a group of people seated at tables in a meeting room. A large screen in the background displays a website for 'Future Civic Centre' with an aerial view of a city. The room has large windows and a modern interior.

Hi! I'm **Jonathan Scott**

- ▶ Ward 2 Councillor
- ▶ Chair of the Green Initiatives Advisory Committee

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

- ▶ North of Toronto, at the base of Lake Simcoe
- ▶ Growing municipality of about **52,000**
- ▶ Balancing rapid development with protecting our natural environment

Green Initiatives Advisory Committee

- ▶ Established in 2022
- ▶ Implemented green infrastructure, policy advocacy, and climate action initiatives



What is GIAC?



WATERSHED HEROES: HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AWARD

This award is presented to the Green Initiatives Advisory Committee for combatting climate change, protecting nature and improving greenspaces, investing in resilient infrastructure and advocating for eco-friendly policies.



Lake Simcoe Region
conservation authority

GREEN INITIATIVES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- ▶ Citizen advisory committee that helps Council and staff deliver practical, visible, credible action on the environment.

PROGRESS

- ▶ **15+** formal resolutions passed
- ▶ Published Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy
- ▶ Awarded the Lake Simcoe Watershed Heroes Award for Healthy Communities

Local Climate Strategy

Town's Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy

- ▶ Adopted by Council in early 2025
- ▶ Commits us to **net-zero emissions by 2050** on transportation, buildings, and waste
 - **53% ↓** by 2030
 - **86% ↓** by 2040
- ▶ Strategy includes:
 - A carbon budgeting framework
 - An equity lens to ensure vulnerable populations benefit
 - Public dashboards to ensure transparency
- ▶ Annual progress reports to Council

Water Infrastructure and Salt Management



1. SALT FILTRATION FACILITY

- ▶ In winter, road salt is a major pollutant in the Holland River.

With this facility:

- ▶ Snow is stored on an impermeable pad
- ▶ Runoff is treated through bioswales, oil-grit separators and a new stormwater pond
- ▶ **Up to 80%** of chloride and suspended solids are filtered before release

2. LITTATRAPS AND SALT LIABILITY REFORM

- ▶ Pilot of LittaTraps in our storm drains
- ▶ Pushing to triple funding for this program
- ▶ Protect our waterways directly and they are inexpensive and effective.

- ▶ Also passed a resolution to reduce liability barriers to winter maintenance reform
- ▶ Pushing the Province for limited-liability legislation that would reduce legal barriers to smarter salt use

Holland Marsh Phosphorus Recycling Facility



\$24M

Provincial Funding

\$16M

Federal Funding

A first-in-Canada approach to managing nutrient runoff!

- ▶ Capture up to **85%** of phosphorus runoff before it enters the Holland River
- ▶ Supports the agricultural sector while protecting Lake Simcoe's long-term health
- ▶ Represents the largest phosphorus load reduction in the lake's history

Active Transportation and Connectivity

- ▶ GIAC endorsed a multi-year vision for a **connected trail system** along the Holland River and canal network
- ▶ Advocated for **protected bike lanes** along Holland Street and Line 8, connecting schools, parks, and the GO station
- ▶ We supported **increased transit service and infrastructure**
 - GO train expansion
 - Argo on-demand, app-based electric transit pilot



Schoolyard Reforestation with Trees for Life

PARTNERED WITH TREES FOR LIFE AND LOCAL SCHOOLS TO BRING NEW TREE COVER TO SCHOOLYARDS

- ▶ Supports climate resilience by adding tree canopy
- ▶ Enhances student well-being and environmental education
- ▶ Engages youth and staff in hands-on sustainability efforts



Policy Advocacy Successes

- ▶ Endorsed **Right-to-Repair**, gaining national media coverage and federal attention
- ▶ **Free private well water testing**, leading to a full reversal by the Province
- ▶ **Tree Protection By-law** for public trees and are advocating for stronger investment in maintenance, planting, and community engagement

We continue to push for:

- ▶ A private tree protection by-law
- ▶ Anti-idling regulations
- ▶ Expanded EV charging access
- ▶ Provincial deposit-return expansion for plastics



Lessons and Takeaways

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

- ▶ You don't need a billion-dollar budget—just the will to act.
- ▶ Advisory committees must have purpose.
- ▶ Infrastructure and advocacy go hand in hand.
- ▶ Youth and community must be partners.





SUMMARY

- ▶ We're not perfect—but we're proving that small-town leadership can be smart, ambitious, and results-driven.
- ▶ Through GIAC, we're building not just green infrastructure—but green expectations.
- ▶ **Questions?**



THANK YOU

Jonathan Scott

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