

Our Howson Dam committee asked council for change

By Kelsey Dunbar
ADVANCE TIMES STAFF

Raising historic water levels is one of many requests made in a presentation to the council of North Huron by the Our Howson Dam (OHD) committee last week.

Andy McBride, OHD committee member, delivered the presentation outlining their requests, the importance of the dam to the

community, and the research they have done to proceed with a dam repair project in correspondence with the municipality.

McBride suggested on behalf of the committee, that a committee of council be appointed, and members of the community assist council with the various steps to proceed with repairs. In doing so, repairs would improve the appearance of the dam from all four directions and reestablish higher water levels.

“Current water levels are too low for Musical Muskrat festival use (cardboard boat race) and almost any pleasure boating,” McBride said. “In the past power boats and jet skis could use this pond.”

McBride made note that the committee has a petition of 1,000 or more supporters and eight local community groups have presented their support.

History

The Howson Dam has been a dam site since before 1862; McBride said it is a major historical part of this community and a main reason why this town exists.

The town of Wingham built the current dam in 1921, 95 years ago.

55 years ago the town decided to create a park beside the pond, created by the dam.

Over time the dam face and sills have suffered from serious erosion, created by water movement. If logs were to be replaced to stop the water from flowing and put back into the dam, the water would just leak under them. McBride said it is futile to

put the logs back in under these conditions.

He noted that the historic water levels were 4 to 5 feet higher than current water levels.

According to the committee the dam has not received significant repairs in 30 years.

“This will definitely be a part



EROSION-Pictured here is a part of the Howson Dam which shows the serious erosion damage, which the entire dam as suffered.

Submitted Photo

of the budget discussions,” Reeve Neil Vincent said.

“We are going to be doing considerable work in the 2016 budget to update our capital claim ... we will be working on it so council can understand how much reserve money they need to put

away to address not only the structure, which we all agree that something has to be done with it, but also the many other assets the municipality own that are vital to this municipality,” CAO Sharon Chambers said.

Thank You

Our sincere thanks and appreciation for your generosity and caring Spirit over the Christmas Season.

You were instrumental in enabling us to exceed our financial quota and we will be ever grateful because you gave.

Christmas meals, gifts, practical assistance, love and support were possible because of YOU! The Salvation Army could not do what they do without you.

God Bless and may He continue to bestow upon you a caring Spirit in 2016

Majors Arch & Marie Simmonds
Wingham

Wingham Advance Times

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