

HOWSON DAM & POND CITIZENS COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

JULY 25, 2022

As you know, the municipal election will be here in three months. This might be your/our last chance to stop the decommissioning of the Howson Dam. When candidates file to run in the election, they must submit their name, address, phone number, and email address. This might be an opportunity for you to ask them some tough questions, especially if a present councilor is going to run again. Do you know that both councilors from Blyth, and both councilors from East Wawanosh, and one from Wingham, voted 100% against the committee of council's recommendation to have the dam repaired and 100% against every recommendation made by our Citizens Committee?

It is mind boggling to me that North Huron council would turn down an opportunity for a community group to fund raise to have the dam repaired. It could have been a win-win decision for council because, if the fundraisers raised the necessary funds, the beautiful pond would be restored. However, if sufficient funds weren't raised, council could at least say that they gave the committee a fair chance. Anita van Hittersum has put her name forward to run again. She is a councilor from the East Wawanosh ward, and she voted repeatedly against any repairs or fundraising for the dam. Why don't you contact her to find out why? 519-523-4492, or anitavanh2018@gmail.com

A councilor from Wingham tried to tell me that it was because of 'LIABILITY' that he did not want the dam repaired. I talked with Bernie Bailey who told me that liability is not an issue because all facilities are covered under the same blanket for insurance. In my 40 plus years in Wingham, I have not heard of a single incident of harm to anyone that used the Howson Dam or pond; however, I know of many instances

where ambulances had to be dispatched to the hockey arena, the swimming pool and even the ballpark.

Some councilors tried to use the excuse that the dam is too expensive to maintain. Really! Don Carter, former reeve, directed council to set aside \$200,000, over 20 years ago, for repairs to the dam, as needed. To date, not one cent has been spent on repairs to the dam. The swimming pool, which has been around for a little more than 20 years, has been a money pit for the community. I don't begrudge spending money to maintain our facilities; however, the councilors need to compare apples to apples.

Approximately eight years ago, over 1000 people signed a sheet indicating that they would like to see the dam repaired. This is your opportunity to make the councilors accountable. Ask the questions and vote accordingly.

Thank you,

Rennie Alexander, Chairperson,

Howson Dam & Pond Citizens Committee