

HOWSON DAM & POND CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Newsletter

March 26, 2021

The old saying is, “the more things change, the more they stay the same”. The North Huron Council has secured at least three more development sites for potential new homes in the area (without decommissioning the dam). In the last fifty years we have seen many new homes and businesses constructed in Wingham and still the population has remained the same.

In the last 167 years the Howson Dam has undergone some alterations, but the function of the dam has not changed. So, what has changed? If you saw the March 11th, 2021 issue of “The Citizen”, you might think that the Town of Wingham is headed for disaster with the next big storm; however, you might want to look a little closer. All the land in RED, to the east of the dam in Wingham has been developed for many, many years. Removing the dam would not increase any opportunities for development.

There are two properties in Turnberry Township that have been in the flood plain for 167 years. With the building boom in southwestern Ontario, those landowners have seen an opportunity to cash in their farmland for residential or industrial property, if the dam was decommissioned.

The citizens of North Huron spoke very clearly when they attended a special council meeting at the town hall in October 2016 to show support for the Dam and Pond in conjunction with the Environmental Assessment that was being undertaken on the Dam at that time. Plus, more than 1000 signatures of support were received and over 200 letters of support for the Dam and pond were delivered to the Township. In every case the residents of North Huron understood the ramifications of losing the dam.

The pond certainly is the jewel of our community.

Rennie Alexander, HD & P CC, Chairperson