

Howson Dam group seeking committee of council status again

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WINGHAM – Once again, the Howson Dam group is seeking the opportunity to work with council regarding the refurbishment of the Howson Dam.

Andy McBride presented to council on Feb. 4 to inform the relatively new council that there is a citizen's committee dedicated to restoring the Howson Dam and by association the pond beside the Riverside Park in Wingham.

"There has been a dam at this location for over 155 years," he said.

McBride said all of the dams built over the years were built for water power. The current dam was built by the former Town of Wingham in 1921 – 98 years ago.

"The dam is essential to the beauty of our riverside park," he added.

The Save The Dam group was established in 2012 and has a small executive of five members. The group also has over 1,000 people supporting them.

The group's objectives are to become an official committee of council and they would like to assist with the repair project in any way possible; improve the function and appearance of the dam; and re-establish the historic water level.

The group is currently requesting that council initiate discussions with them regarding how they can be of assistance with a repair project; make application to Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for approval to proceed with repairs to the dam as soon as possible.

Council passed a motion directing staff bring a report back to council and further discuss working with the Howson Dam group.

The previous council began work towards an environmental assessment, safety analysis and public outreach to determine if the dam should be rebuilt, restored or removed. The former council ultimately left the decision to their successors due to the amount of information that still needs to be collected.



by [Kelsey Bent](#)

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