



June 15, 2018

Township of North Huron  
PO Box 90  
274 Josephine Street  
Wingham, ON N0G 2W0

**Attention: Mr. Dwayne Evans, CAO**

**Re: Impact of Howson Dam on Flood Risk**

Dear Mr. Evans,

We understand that the Township of North Huron is considering options for the future of the Howson Dam. Please consider the following comments related to flood risk which we feel are relevant to the decision making process.

The Howson dam is an obstruction in the river that increases the potential for flooding of land and development upstream of the dam (see attached flood plain mapping). Put simply, the dam is a bottleneck in the floodplain that increases the risk of flooding and flood damages upstream of the dam. The flood plain mapping delineates the area where the risk to life and property is increased. Furthermore, the Howson dam does not protect development located downstream from flooding and is therefore not a flood control structure. In short, the dam causes an increase in flooding upstream without reducing the potential for flooding downstream.

It is expected that the area upstream that is presently located in the flood plain can be reduced if the dam is removed. The removal of the dam would reduce the risk of flooding upstream of the dam. North Huron should consider updating the flood plain mapping as part of the project. If the dam was to be replaced, it would need to be designed to reduce the risk of flooding of development and lands located upstream of any new structure.

It is important to note that the climate is changing and that there is increased risk of flooding from severe rainfall events in the summer and rapid snowmelt events, combined with rain during the winter months. Climate Scientists are warning that we can expect to be subjected to even greater flood events in the future than we have experienced in the past.

MVCA recommends that North Huron fully explore the potential for reducing the risk to its residents upstream of the dam from flooding by either removing the dam or replacing it with a structure that minimizes the potential for flooding of development or lands located upstream of the structure. Repairing the existing structure would not reduce the risk of flooding of lands located upstream of the dam.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Yours Truly,

**Maitland Valley Conservation Authority**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name below.

Stephen Jackson, P, Eng.  
Flood and Erosion Safety Service Coordinator

Cc: Mr. Sean McGhee, Director of Public Works, Township of North Huron

Cc: Mr. Jim Campbell, Chair, Maitland Valley Board of Directors

Encl.



# Floodplain Upstream of the Howson Dam

 Current Flood Hazard

