

HOWSON DAM REPAIR PROJECT – NEWSLETTER #2

Hello Fellow Dam Repair Supporters:

April 8, 2015

Welcome to Spring and thanks again for your support to date. A number of you have been asking what the status is with our project, so here is a short update.

At this time we have over 800 individuals and eight community groups (the Horticultural Society, the Lions Club, the Sportsmen Association, the BIA, the Masonic Lodge, the Musical Muskrat Festival Committee, Branch 180 of the Royal Canadian Legion and the Seniors Happy Gang) supporting our initial efforts to obtain plans and specifications for a potential repair of the Dam. Rest assured, we are still moving ahead, slowly but surely.

As mentioned in our November Newsletter, the Township hired BM Ross & Associates to study the dam and investigate options for repairing it. In February, the Committee received a preliminary engineering plan and letter-report for the proposed repair which were referred back to the engineer for some revisions and additions. We just received the revised plan and report and, after we review it, we will meet with North Huron Council to review the proposal and discuss next steps. With Council support, we can then meet with the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) and apply for a permit from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). We are pleased to advise that, primarily due to the efforts of NH Recreation & Facilities Director Pat Newson, we received a grant of \$3,115.50 from the Huron County Heritage Fund to help offset the engineering costs.

We still believe that community support will be a significant factor in obtaining the necessary approval from Council and the permits, so please continue to encourage your family, friends and neighbours to contact us to have their names added to the supporters list by emailing howsondamrepair@gmail.com or calling one of us. Our goal is to achieve at least 1000 supporters.

Township Council approval and support are essential for this project so, whenever you have a chance, please tell your North Huron Council members how important this is to you and the community.

We continue to meet monthly to advance this project so please contact us if you have any suggestions, ideas or concerns. We are still unsure of our timeline as it all depends on receiving continuing Council support and funding, and the permits from the MNR and the MVCA.

Best Regards,

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