

HOWSON DAM & POND CITIZENS COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

JULY 19, 2022

Since our last newsletter a lot has happened and yet nothing has happened. In the Feb. 2022 newsletter, I mentioned that our lawyer sent a letter to the North Huron council outlining some of the discrepancies with the GSS proposal for decommissioning the dam. In April 2022, a letter was received from the North Huron's lawyer stating that he could not see any indiscretions with the GSS proposal so the Township will proceed with the decommissioning process. We have sent a copy of our lawyer's letter to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Provincial agency that administers the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act. (If you would like to receive a digital copy of our lawyer's letter, please contact me or Andy McBride.)

For the May 24 weekend a few stop logs were set in the dam. The following Monday I contacted the Township Public Works Manager to see when the rest of the logs would be installed. She told me that this is the way it will look on the future, so the people of Wingham just have to get used to it.

On June 10, 2022, four of the six people that were on the Howson Dam Committee of Council sent a letter to the North Huron council. They stated that "Council's current course is to remove the dam, without first trying to fundraise to keep the dam, which is clearly not aligned with the Committee of Council's recommendations." That letter went on to suggest ways that council could align with the committee of council's recommendations. The recommendations were completely rejected by council. (If you would like to receive a digital copy of aforementioned letter, please contact me or Andy McBride.)

After the July first fireworks, I was asked many times about the lack of water in the pond. I gave most people the short view and strongly urged them to contact Township CAO Dwayne Evans at the town hall. The calls and emails must have worked because Dwayne asked me to go to a meeting with him and the Township Public Works Manager. On July 12 Andy McBride, Mitch Wright and I attended a meeting at the town hall. After about two hours, I don't feel that we had any positive resolve. We were told that some of the new stop logs that were built last year are broken. We offered to purchase or build new ones, but that fell on deaf ears.

Again, it is not over until it is over! Tell anyone who will listen, especially Council members and staff, that you want to have a Pond and we think we can raise enough money to 'rehabilitate' the Dam and keep the Pond.

There is something else that you can do and I will elaborate later this week.

Thank you for your continued interest and support,

Rennie Alexander,

HD & PCC CHAIRPERSON