

Operation of Wroxeter Dam faces several recommendations from community, town staff

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HOWICK – Morley Crewson spoke on behalf of her and her husband Leone Crewson at the May 2 council meeting in regards to the final resolution of the Wroxeter Dam.

She said she, “expects to hear council’s reasonable and final solution, failing which we will formally state our intention to seek a permanent injunction from the Supreme Court of Justice seated at Goderich, preventing the dam from being installed at any level in the future.”

“We will also advise of the steps currently being taken to secure a temporary injunction until the matter can be finally determined,” Crewson wrote.

Previously in her letter to council she stated that the Wroxeter Dam matter has been raised with council repeatedly since the flooding of their basement in the

spring of 2015. Crewson said to council that they would like to see the dam removed or the water levels lowered by 50 per cent.

“The condition of the flag and fountain show complete disregard for the community by those who are responsible,” Crewson said to council.

Following in the May 2 council meeting, the Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) for the Township of Howick, Shawn Edwards presented a report recommending council consider the following amendments to the manual for the operation and maintenance of the Wroxeter Dam:

- The dam posts and gates be engineered and approved by MNRF.

- A normal operating level and a max level must be established. These levels should be clearly marked.

- Including a line for example, “as deemed advisable by The Corporation of the Township of Howick.”

- That a report from the Board/Operators be prepared and sent monthly Apr-Nov to Council regarding the Operation and Maintenance of the Wroxeter Dam.

- That a log book or new log book be created with check sheets for; Gate Inspections – Weekly, Water Level checks – Daily during normal operation, Every four (4) hours during a Flood Watch, Every two (2) hours during a Flood Warning; Concrete, Earth Embankments, Dykes, Retaining Wall checks – Monthly Apr-Nov.

- Gates/stop logs are to be installed thorough the coordination of Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) coinciding with the installation of gates/stop logs at Gorrie dam. All flood advisories are issued directly to the operators of the dam. Therefore it would be the responsibility of the operators of the dam to follow the emergency plan and advise the CEMC of impending flood and or emergency operations of the dam. This could also be moved and included in the emergency plan.

- The Board/Operators installation/removal and operation procedures be reviewed and approved by a consultant and or Ministry of Labour (MOL) to ensure all work is done within the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and any other applicable legislation.

- The final draft of this Manual for the operation and Maintenance of the Worxeter Dam be reviewed by a consultant and or receive legal opinion. Also sent for review, comment, approval if applicable by MNRF and MVCA.

View Edwards entire report on the Township of Howick website (www.howick.ca).

The Wroxeter Dam discussion continued in council on May 17, after press time.

by [Kelsey Dunbar](#)

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