

Dear Councillors and Mayor Morgan,

I am writing to you regarding item 4.1 from the ICSC report “Pollution Prevention and Control Plan Update Study,” and more specifically, item d, that “the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to report back to a future meeting of the Infrastructure and Corporate Services Committee with a proposed implementation plan for a ‘Point of Purchase’ weeping tile disconnection program.” I listened intently to the discussion around this item both times it was discussed, both in late 2025 and earlier this month. In fact, I had a letter on this subject published in the London Free Press on January 15. I was disappointed to see that the motion for a weeping tile disconnection implementation plan from staff did not pass in committee. I don’t know whether going forward with such a program would have been the right move for the city, but I would have liked to have seen city staff look into the matter further. Nevertheless, I do appreciate the robust discussion that preceded the vote on this in committee, and I particularly appreciate the many different perspectives that were shared in the context of that discussion. For what it’s worth, I would like to share my perspective, focusing on 3 main areas: water, home sales, and leadership.

1. Water. Improved wastewater and stormwater management is of paramount importance. I don’t think any members of Council fundamentally disagree on this point. In addition to the impact that stormwater overflow has on our natural environment, it is also expensive. As Councillor Franke pointed out in committee, we’re already paying for this.
2. Home Sales. I bought my first home in 2023. In this context, I can offer my perspective as a recent homebuyer. It was hard and it cost a lot of money. With that being said, I don’t think that something like a requirement for point-of-purchase weeping tile disconnection would have made home buying more expensive for me. When my husband and I were looking at properties, we knew that houses would come with maintenance liabilities, and that houses of certain ages would have certain liabilities associated with them. As we looked at homes of various ages, we were aware of things like aluminum wiring, asbestos, lead pipes, and, of course, wet basements. The likelihood (or lack thereof) of needing to do immediate or near-term remediation already factored into the amount we were willing to offer on any given property. Weeping tile disconnection would just have been another such consideration. Buying any home comes with the risk of needing to spend money on an immediate maintenance issue. From my perspective as a recent home buyer, a point-of-sale weeping tile disconnection requirement would not really have been a new potential expense; it would just have been one example of a category of potential expense that already exists. I understand, of course, that everybody’s home-buying experience is different, and that this was just mine.
3. Leadership. One concern I heard raised in both iterations of ICSC’s discussion on this matter was the fact that no other Ontario municipalities have a program like this. It’s always important to do our due diligence, and of course if nobody has done something, we should ask why. However, we should also not be afraid to be the first. In taking any step, somebody has to lead, and there’s no reason why that should not be London.

In closing, I’d like to reiterate that I had hoped this request for an implementation plan would be approved in committee, because I think the matter would have been worth investigating. However, I do respect committee members’ reasons for hesitation. Before voting no, Mayor Morgan said that he would perhaps be open to revisiting this discussion in the future, or to brainstorming other ideas. I hope the discussion is in fact not over forever. Whether or not a point-of-sale weeping tile disconnection program is something London wants to explore right now, it’s an interesting idea, and one worth learning more about at some point.

Sincerely,  
Mary Blake Rose  
Ward 7 resident