

**From:** Barry Wells

**Sent:** Sunday, January 31, 2016 2:28 PM

**To:** Saunders, Cathy; Martin, Jackie

**Cc:** Wilson Mitch (MNRF); Helmer, Jesse; Cassidy, Maureen; Hopkins, Anna; Morgan, Josh; Fleming, John M.; van Holst, Michael

**Subject:** Springbank Dam, CWC, Added Communication

**Added Communication for Agenda, Feb. 2, 2016**

Chair and Members

Civic Works Committee

The Corporation of the City of London

**Re: The Costly and Unnecessary Springbank Dam**

The City of London does not own the Thames River. The river just runs through London. To dam the river without a compelling reason to do so (such as flood control) is irresponsible since the dam significantly reduces the river's water quality (impounds pollutants) while causing huge problems for the river's aquatic and terrestrial wildlife (destroyed shoreline habitat), including at-risk species and our many neighbours downstream.

Even Lake Erie's serious algal problem is exacerbated by the warmer water flowing from the stagnant reservoir created by the Springbank Dam when it's in operation.

Eventually, this algal problem will affect London's drinking water we draw from Lake Erie. I'm surprised the few dam supporters on city council and City of London management team choose to ignore this important fact, while giving lip service to environmental concerns.

A healthy Thames River = a healthy community, with a healthy river affording far more recreational opportunities than a sick or dirty river, **noting people regularly canoe and kayak on the Thames River from the river forks to Springbank Park with the dam broken, even during the summer.**

It just so happens the most environmentally responsible thing to do with the Springbank Dam is also the LEAST expensive.

So leave it as it is, remove the new hydraulic gates or decommission it, noting all the Back-to-the-River design contestants were told to design their proposal for both an inoperative and working dam.

Let's show the world London, Ontario, Canada is a progressive city and get rid of the archaic Springbank Dam, permanently.

Let's make our heritage river an environmental and cultural attraction. The dividends will be enormous.

Osprey (hawks) aren't flocking to the river for no reason. They're coming here in greater numbers because the fishing is vastly improved since the Springbank Dam has been inoperative.

Let's think like it's 2016, not 1946. Let's go Back to the River with a free-flowing river teeming with aquatic life and a natural shoreline. Let's do the right thing. Let's Respect and Celebrate the Thames River.

Sincerely,

**Barry A. Wells**

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