



Nature London

The McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London Ontario Inc.
P.O. Box 24008, London, Ontario N6H 5C4

January 17 2016

Mayor Matt Brown and all members of City Council
City Hall
London

Re: Springbank Dam

In my letter to you on this subject in September 2015, I made the following recommendations. Nature London urged that, before taking any action to resume operation of the Springbank Dam, the City of London and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority would take the following actions for the Thames River from the Forks of the Thames to the Boler Road bridge:

1. Update studies of the natural environment conditions in and immediately adjacent to the river, including but not limited to factors such as water quality, benthic fauna, fish, shoreline vegetation, and wildlife such as the Spiny Softshell turtle (a species considered Threatened under the Endangered Species Act 2007);
2. Update studies of the social environment conditions associated with the river, taking particular note of the ongoing high value of parkland adjacent to this section of the river;
3. Undertake a fair and balanced assessment of the updated information on the natural and social environment, using the best available information to guide the decision on whether or not to close the gates of the Springbank Dam.

Since that time, the situation has changed with the resolution of the City's civil suit concerning the failed renovation of the dam, and the City is now in a position to make a decision with long-lasting consequences for the dam's future. We believe the need for a fully-informed approach to the decision is fundamental. We understand that the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry shares this belief, as expressed in its letter of November 2015. Therefore, we recommend the City commission a full, independent Environmental Assessment, taking into account all relevant factors, before making a decision whether or not to reactivate the dam.

Nature London believes this approach will assist Council in making an informed decision on the future of the Springbank Dam.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Andreae". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end.

Muriel Andreae,
President, Nature London

Actively concerned with Nature since 1864