

Hello Lauren, Anna.

Please add the fact sheet (pasted below) to meeting agenda and circulate this information to city councillors prior to the meeting. I thank you for your consideration and support. I will be travelling on March 8 but I hope to be back in London in time to attend the meeting.

Fact Sheet for City Councillors and Mayor's office.

In regard to the Springbank Dam Public Participation Meeting, London City Councillors will likely hear a number of opinions from Londoners, project stakeholders and other interested parties. This letter is not to present more opinions to council, but to offer specific facts to aide council in their decision process.

On August 14, 2000 the Thames River was granted designation as a Canadian Heritage River. This special designation comes with specific covenants and privileges. One of those covenants is that no organization or entity has the right to block public access to this river.

The city and the UTRCA have contravened the intent of this covenant by erecting a fence on the southwest corner of the dam and posting no trespassing signage on this fence. The signage on this now dilapidated fence reads: NO TRESPASSING by order of the City of London and the UTRCA. This area is closed to the public due to potential hazards created by flooding. Public access will be permitted after repairs to the area have been completed.

After the flood that damaged the southwest bank in July 2000 the UTRCA commissioned an assessment by Acres International. A safety assessment (2002) and another environmental study (2003) made recommendations to repair the flood erosion damage to river bank below the dam.

Armed with these study recommendations, federal funding was secured to make the needed safety repairs. According to the (2003) project plan and environmental assessment, \$700,000 of federal funding was allocated to repairing the erosion damage, and to correct structural safety concerns.

As of today the southwest bank has not been repaired and the structural safety concerns raised in the 2002 Safety report have still not been actioned by the UTRCA or the City. \$700,000 of Federal funding was secured to make needed safety repairs, but none of the erosion repair work has been completed.

There are three (3) managed structures on the Thames River. Two of these are permanent 'closed' structures. They are the Fanshawe Dam and Hunts Dam (behind Labatt's) and both are

used for flood control and water management. No fish, no watercraft can pass over or under these two structures. The notion that the river will flow naturally and freely without the Springbank dam is flawed.

The Springbank dam constructed in 1929 is neither for flood control nor used to generate hydro. It was purpose build to hold water used for recreational activities. Traditionally, Springbank Dam only held back water for six months each year from approximately May 24th until early November. This dam operated in both an 'open' and 'closed' condition and allowed for fish migration between November and late May while the dam gates were opened. The reservoir at springbank dam is a popular setting for a variety of passive and active recreational uses, including boating, canoeing, fishing and walking.

Note that the Springbank dam was never designated by the province, as a flood control structure. Its special designation is 'recreational' and has been so since its construction over 85 years ago.

However, the UTRCA and the City had cited structural safety concerns and flood prevention on the rehabilitation project documents and Federal funding requests to secure public funds for the project.

In 2004 the MNR weighed in on the project and made a public promise to have fishing opportunities restored to public. The MNR referenced a special project provision agreed to by UTRCA to provide a raised public fishing area on southwest bank directly, below the dam. A small raised platform was placed on the site but access has been restricted since a fence went up in 2004.

I ask City Council to please action the erosion repair solution recommended in Table 1 of the Springbank Dam – South Bank Erosion Protection Works document and to swiftly restore full public access to the river site.

I also trust that Londoners will be kept in the loop and learn how the city will deliver the publicly funded riverbank erosion repairs described in UTRCA circular; printed in Spring 2004.

Best Regards,

Martin Hettwer