

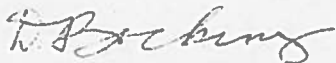
March 2, 2016

Mayor Brown and Members of City Council of London

This submission is in support of fixing the Springbank Dam and raising the water level of the Thames River from the Forks of the Thames to Springbank Dam during the period from mid-April to mid-October.

Although other submissions have strongly supported and given cogent reasons for restoring the Springbank Dam, the following four points are worth emphasizing.

1. The London Canoe Club was founded in the mid 1960's to provide instruction in canoe paddling, the importance of water safety, competitive canoeing and kayaking, and canoe tripping. The Club participated in the Ontario Summer Games held in London in the 1990's. By 2007 when the Dam was being rebuilt the Club membership was approximately 2000.
2. The Joe McManus Canoeing and Rowing facility was built in 1971 to provide a base for the operation of the London Canoe Club and London Rowing Club. Public fund raising by the Clubs provided \$70,000 for the construction of the building on land adjacent to the Wonderland Gardens. The building was turned over to the City of London and is rented to the two Clubs. With inadequate water in the Thames River, the facility primarily provides storage for canoes, kayaks and rowing shells waiting to be used.
3. The wood platform built by the City at Greenway Park and meant for use by handicapped persons and anglers stands unused above the low water levels.
4. The Back to the River project conceived by the London Community Foundation and the City of London has approved a design which is meant to beautify the Forks of the Thames. Much of the attractiveness of the project will be lost if the Springbank Dam is left broken and the water levels remain low at the Forks.



Submitted by Douglas Bocking, C.M., M.D., Founding President London Canoe Club,

Chair of the Committee for Designation of the Thames River as a Canadian Heritage River