

From: Fil Cappa
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2016 3:17 PM
To: Martin, Jackie
Cc: Carbert, Neale
Subject: Civic Works Committee March 8, 2016

Dear Jacqueline,

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission to the Civic Works Committee with regard to the rebuilding and retention of the Springbank Dam.

I have been a resident of London for 60 years, all in the Byron area. Thus I have a great appreciation for the Springbank Dam and its intended purpose – to create a dam pond from the dam upstream to the Forks of the Thames. In my opinion, the dam must be repaired and continued to be used for this purpose.

Since I am sure others will comment on the esthetic value of such and its importance in the proposed remaking of the Forks, with which I am in complete agreement, I will direct your attention to what I consider the dam's most important use – to create a facility for the recreational, training and competitive use for such water-surface sports as rowing, kayaking and canoeing. Previous to the dam being out of commission there was a very active rowing club, with functional storage and training facilities adjacent to the Lombardo Bridge. There was much activity on the river. All this was lost with the failure of the dam.

I have a 19 year-old granddaughter, Jillian Perrone, who lives in Oakville, Ontario. She has been paddling at the Burloak Canoe Club since she was 11. This club, situated in the centre of downtown Oakville, has produced numerous medalists in Olympic and World Championship canoe and kayak competitions. An important reason for such success is that they have an adequate facility – a 1.5 kilometer long section of Sixteen-mile Creek on which to train and complete.

This involvement in paddling has given Jillian the opportunity to be the best that she can be. In addition to winning many medals competing in Ontario Games and Canada Games teams and national championships, she won two golds at the Junior PanAms in Mexico in September, 2014 and last August as one of the two Canadian girls representing Canada in the World Junior Canoe Championships in Portugal, she placed seventh overall.

The reason Jillian was able to do this – to be the best that she can be – was not only her dedication and determination, but having adequate facilities within reach of her home by bicycle, for her daily training sessions.

We spend hundreds of thousands of dollars providing swimming pools and ice pads for recreation, training and competition for participants in those sports. We must then be willing to give those who choose rowing, kayaking and canoeing the same consideration!

Most sincerely,

Filip Cappa, D.D.S.