

Dear Members of Council,

By the time this council is up for re-election our property taxes would have risen almost 12%. Pocket change for some, a struggle for others, especially those seniors that wish to die in their home. This is one reason why I don't want one nickel of my hard earned money to go to an Environmental Assessment on the Springbank Dam. I consider this issue redundant and political and a waste of money. And I still don't understand why we are having this conversation.

Is it because the London Rowers Club want the dam recommissioned? There is clearly no business model that could justify the negative environmental consequences of recommissioning the dam, not to mention placing so many species at risk and denying our neighbours the pleasure of enjoying a natural river.

So what is this really about? I just feel there is something that is not being said here, and that someone is leading Londoners by the nose. Yesterday I called Stantec, the company that won the Bring Back the River design contest, and spoke with Robin Campbell to ask whether the river design was dependent on elevated water levels. She was so afraid of replying that all she could do was re-direct me to Scott Mathers of the Stormwater Management Dept.

Why is that? Why is this issue associated with stormwater management when the dam is really superfluous?

Only Ms. Powell, President of the London Community Foundation, spoke to me honestly and confirmed that the Back to the River design is NOT dependent on elevated water levels. It was so refreshing to speak with her because she spoke plainly and honestly. If you support recommissioning the dam, then just say it.

And if you don't support recommissioning the dam than reject spending money on yet another EA.

Because decommissioning a dam that serves no flood purpose does not require an EA. Decommissioning the dam can be accomplished through a 'feasibility' study which is a scaled down version of an EA. These can be confirmed through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Fisheries Ocean Canada.

All the facts about the dam are already on the table. Please make a decision and stop wasting taxpayer dollars on an Environmental Assessment.

Sincerely,

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