

Your Worship,

I am the principal cellist of the former Orchestra London Canada. I live on Argyle Street in the Blackfriars Community, in front of the Thames River. I have noticed a huge improvement in the river since the dam has been down. When the dam was working, the water became stagnant and stunk. It got increasingly more unhealthy not being allowed to flow as nature intended it. Now the whole ecological system is thriving. Wildlife has increased dramatically. I have seen more, fish, cranes, herons, beaver, muskrat, deer, ducks geese, osprey and even eagles to name a few! It is invigorating and so enjoyable to walk along the river path and enjoy what the Thames now has to offer. In the "dam days" I often avoided going along the path because it was just to unpleasant and disgusting. I see more anglers now enjoying fishing and I see people canoeing and rafting. I love the river and am proud of it now. I have spoken with countless individuals who feel the same way as I do and are very upset about the prospect of the dam being fixed and the river reverting back to an unhealthy state.

I have one friend who is a boater and she is the only one who wants the dam fixed amongst all the folks I know and I know and have discussed the subject with a lot of people. Even this person admits that it is more ecologically sound to leave the river alone and let it continue to heal itself. My generation and future generations will be so appreciative. A water sport is far less important in there big picture. Another good reason to decommission fixing the dam, is the cost financially. It will cost the taxpayers a great deal of money and that money will be spent to hurt the environment.

Please let our Thames River flow naturally as nature intended it to flow. I love the river so much and if left alone, it will continue to get better and better! It is the right thing to do no matter how one looks at it.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Christine Newland