

ADDED COMMUNICATION FOR CITY COUNCIL, MAY 17, 2016

His Worship the Mayor Matt Brown
And Members of City Council
The Corporation of the City of London
c/o City Clerk Cathy Saunders

**Re: 8th Report of the Civic Works Committee; Clause 7,
"One River" Master Plan EA**

Reject the Recommendation from Committee. Here's why:

It has become increasingly apparent to any reasonable person who has examined this issue in depth that, at some point, an "**Environmental Assessment to Decommission the Springbank Dam**" (*not* a "One River" Master Plan EA, but a narrow-in-scope, specific EA to Decommission the Springbank Dam) will have to be undertaken for a variety of rather obvious reasons, including:

1. **First Nations' objections** to the river-killing, deadbeat Springbank Dam.
2. The documented presence of several **Species-at-Risk** upstream and downstream of the dam.
3. Environmental, human health and safety concerns with the **regular and ongoing discharging of sewage** into the river by the City of London's network of wastewater treatment plants and pumping stations during heavy rainfalls. The impoundment of sewage via the dam, by anyone's definition clearly meets the definition of "insanity."
4. The **improved health of the river and its ecosystem**, according to three (3) officials with the UTRCA, without the dam in operation (Ian Wilcox, Chris Tasker and Scott Gillingwater).
5. The reality that paddling is regularly occurring on the river **without the dam in operation**.

Hammering home the absurdity of repairing and reactivating the deadbeat Springbank Dam is the **recent decision** by the federal government to re-classify the **Spiny Softshell Turtle** as an "endangered species" after 25 years as a lower-risk "threatened" species. In this regard see this link:

http://www.cosewic.gc.ca/eng/sct1/searchdetail_e.cfm?id=278&StartRow=1&boxStatus=All&boxTaxonomic=All&location=All&change=All&board=All&commonName=spiny%20softshell%20turtle&scienceName=&returnFlag=0&Page=1

Also worth noting in this regard is UTRCA Species-at-Risk Biologist **Scott Gillingwater's 2015 Reptiles-at Risk Report**, written before the federal government re-classified the Spiny Softshell Turtle to "endangered status," which can be found here (Executive Summary):

<http://www.altlondon.org/article.php?story=20160314191524812>

Finally, it has been reported the recommended "One River" Master Plan EA would be approximately \$300,000 less expensive than two separate EAs for the Back-to-the-River Project and the Springbank Dam.

Given the above documented information, it's apparent that if you support the recommendation from the CWC committee, an **EA to Decommission** the dam will still have to be undertaken in the future which will cost several hundred thousand dollars more.

What is needed is an **EA for the Back-to-the-River Project** and a narrow-in-scope **EA to Decommission the Springbank Dam**, which will save both time and money for the City of London.

Sincerely,
Barry A. Wells
'Let the River Run Free'
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