



**ONTARIO
RIVERS
ALLIANCE**



9 January 2018

Civic Works Committee:

Councillor Virginia Ridley (Chair)
Councillor Tanya Park (Vice Chair)
Councillor Phil Squire
Councillor Paul Hubert
Councillor Harold Usher
Mayor Matt Brown

Re: One River Stage 1 Master Plan Environmental Assessment Report – Springbank Dam

Dear Civic Works Committee Members:

The Thames River Anglers Association, the Ontario Rivers Alliance, and those listed below, are pleased to offer our feedback on the findings and recommendations with respect to the preferred options for the Springbank Dam, as set out in the One River Stage 1 Master Plan Environmental Assessment Report (EA).

After carefully reviewing the various reports and supplemental documents contained in the EA, we offer our support for the preferred recommended option of a “Free-Flowing River”, through the decommissioning of Springbank Dam so that it no longer provides a water retention function.

The City of London, consultants and provincial regulatory agencies are to be commended for their combined effort in submitting such a comprehensive and thorough series of reports. Ample opportunity was provided to stakeholders to communicate fully and effectively in a consultation process that demonstrates an open and transparent science and evidence based decision making framework. Given the level of detail in the EA, we are optimistic that the preferred overall river management strategy to be explored in Stage 2 will ensure a successful final outcome for the Thames River.

The decommissioning of Springbank Dam would demonstrate that our community understands the value and importance of protecting our fresh water, as well as the diverse species of fish, turtles, mussels and plants that inhabit the Thames River Watershed.

We urge the Civic Works Committee to recommend the preferred “Free-Flowing River” option to City Council. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Robert Huber
President, Thames River Anglers Association
Vice Chair, Ontario Rivers Alliance
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Supporting Organizations:

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'CWF commends the government staff and non-government organizations involved in this positive outcome for the Thames River that will benefit recreational fisheries, species at risk, and other wildlife.'

Angling Sports London Ltd.

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Pat DeVincenzo, 'as owner of a fishing tackle store in London I have noticed a substantial increase in fishing as a recreational sport especially along the Thames River since the Springbank Dam has been de-commissioned. From Fanshawe Lake to the Forks of the Thames and from Dorchester to Delaware fisherman are hitting the banks more often with friends and family to enjoy fishing the river as it was meant to be.'

Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Association

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