



Friends of Meadowlily Woods  
Community Association  
141 Meadowlily Road, South  
London, ON N6M 1C3

Friends of Meadowlily Woods Community Association  
Letter to the Civic Works Committee Public Meeting  
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Meadowlily  
Bridge (1910) Rehabilitation

2 December 2012

City of London  
300 Dufferin Street  
London, ON N6A 4L9

Attention: Betty Mercier, Paul Van Meerbergen, chair, Harold Usher,  
Matt Brown, Stephen Orser, Sandy White

CC: Corri Marr, Karl Grabowski and Jan Fullick

Councilor Van Meerbergen and members of the Civic Works Committee,

The Friends of Meadowlily Woods Community Association would like to take this opportunity first of all to express our appreciation and thanks to the AECOM Consultant Team, the heritage engineer, Chris Andreae, as well as the Engineering Department of the City of London for their work on this project. It is clear from the documents attached to this rehabilitation project for Meadowlily Bridge that a lot of thought and consideration went into the preparation of this Class Assessment. The Friends of Meadowlily Woods are in favour of this rehabilitation and restoration of Meadowlily Bridge.

We would like to offer a few suggestions about the project that could enhance the value and appearance of the finished work.

## 1. Opportunities and Constraints:

Signage: There are several elements of signage in and around the area of the bridge that we would see as helpful.

**A. Commissioners Road East at Meadowlily Road South and Hamilton Road and Meadowlily Road North:** It seems it would be good to have relatively large signs indicating and pointing the way to Meadowlily Bridge. These signs ought to be similar in style and form as other London signs indicating heritage-designated and community activity sites around the city.

**B. Signs on Meadowlily Bridge:** Given that this is a restoration-rehabilitation of a 1910 era truss bridge, what about signs on the north portal brace and on the south entrance to the bridge indicating the date of the bridge, builder and perhaps Hamilton Bridge Company, etc. Could they be approached about offering a design that would have been a sign that would be similar to bridges of the era?

## 2. Natural Environment, Meadowlily Bridge:

The location of the Meadowlily Bridge Rehabilitation Project near the Northwest entrance of the Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area, both with respect to the areas along Meadowlily Road South and the areas immediately to the East of the Meadowlily Bridge, are in close proximity to trees, shrubs and plants of the ESA and the greatest efforts need to be made to maintain, protect and preserve this area from encroachment into the area and efforts need to be made to not disturb these natural resources, for example the large trees that front the ESA along Meadowlily Road South. Friends of Meadowlily would like to see

the lowest possible “footprint” on the south side of the bridge and the east side of Meadowlily Road South. For instance, could the turnaround point for the snow plow and traffic be moved 20-30 ft to the south of the proposed site to save the mature trees that front the area near the entrance of Meadowlily Woods?

As mentioned by the engineers and others working on the project, it does seem wise though with respect to the repair and rehabilitation of the bridge that a buffer on each side of the bridge should be allowed for with respect to trees and other impediments that might impede the repair process or at a later point damage the newly restored structure with wind, ice or storm damage. Thus it also seems prudent to remove the existing trees that encroach upon and impinge upon parts of the structure of the bridge are even doing damage to the pony trusses on the south end of the bridge (from the south end of the main truss to the South bank) as well as on the east and west sides of the north entrance to the bridge that these trees and scrub plants be removed and that a clear corridor be maintained around the bridge for the foreseeable future.

### **3. Social-Community Issues, Meadowlily Bridge:**

**Community Uses of Meadowlily Bridge:** Meadowlily Bridge has been a centerpiece over the years of area celebrations and gatherings in the area. Those who are walking, hiking, dog-walking, cycling, Nature London tours, Thames Talbot Land Trust Nature Preserve, TVTA walks, including Tuesday Morning Ramblers, etc. use the bridge with considerable frequency to transverse the Thames River north to south at this point. Local photographers like capturing images of one of London’s old truss bridges when they visit the area. CTV London Newscast, May 2012 showed the number of people in the area that use the bridge as a connecting point from north to south along the Thames River at this point.

In terms of community uses, one member of the consultant team was talking about developing the **North End of the bridge** in the area of Pottersburg Park as a park-like area, maybe even a few picnic tables or something to make that the more open side of the bridge approach. **The Friends of Meadowlily Woods would like to see this open the way to eventually designating, recognizing and protecting the ruins of the Meadowlily Mill in that area. As was noted at a recent meeting of the London Advisory Committee on Heritage, this is one of the only remaining sites of an industry that played a very important role in the founding and developing of London as a city.**

#### **4. Economic Issues related to Meadowlily Bridge:**

It has been pointed out that this method of rehabilitation is considerably less expensive than trying to replace the bridge. This bridge provides pedestrian and cyclist access north & south of the river at that point which is not available for a long distance either west or east of this point along the Thames.

#### **5. Conclusion and Summary**

The Friends of Meadowlily Woods Community Association supports the rehabilitation and restoration of Meadowlily Bridge. We would like to express thanks to the Engineering Department of the City of London, AECOM Engineering Team as well as everyone who has worked on this project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Smith,  
Friends of Meadowlily Wood Community Association