

July 18, 2018

Township of North Huron  
274 Josephine Street,  
Wingham, Ontario  
N0G 2W0

Attention: Reeve Vincent and Council

Dear Reeve Vincent:

**RE: Developing a Fair and Objective Way Forward on the Howson Dam and Riverside Park**

I read with interest that the Township is interested in examining whether to replace the Howson Dam or to decommission it and restore the river and flood plain.

I would encourage council to consider developing a process where both of these options can be examined in a way that looks at what is in the best interests of the Township of North Huron, its citizens and the health of the river system.

Several years ago, the Municipality of North Perth was faced with a similar challenge. The process they developed was to appoint a committee comprised of four citizens who had an interest in the issue along with two councillors. The committee was charged with the task of examining the pros and cons of each option and to bring a report back to council.

The committee invited people and agencies with expertise in river ecology and park planning to talk to them. The committee also visited other communities with similar challenges, including Wingham.

The committee's recommendations did not please everyone. However, they did develop a plan for moving forward that both the community and municipality could live with and work with.

If you would like to learn more about the process and terms of reference that North Perth followed, please contact Kriss Snell, CAO for the Municipality of North Perth. I know he would be more than willing to make a presentation to council.

I would recommend that council consider undertaking a similar process, I think that council has a responsibility to all the citizens of North Huron to ensure that an open, transparent, fair and objective process be established so that council can make an informed and responsible decision on this matter.

The way forward should reflect what is best for the municipality as a whole and its citizens, both now and more importantly for future generations. Remember, they will have to live with the consequences (including the financial costs) of your decision. Let us give them a reason to look back and thank council for their due diligence in making such an important, informed decision.

The future will not be like the past, nor should it. The question is, do we have the courage and foresight to look ahead, plan for it and try to make the best decision we can for future generations?

In closing, I would urge council to consider establishing a committee to investigate the future of the Howson Dam and the Riverside Park.

I look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Phil Beard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Phil Beard  
649 Josephine Street  
PO. Box 1476