

Mayor's Report, December 16, 2015

Latchford Control Dam Project

- I hope by now that all of you are aware of the disastrous results of the removal of the coffer dams on the water quality in the river because of lack of adequate silt curtains for containment of the heavily silted water. With the removal of lower dam and witnessing the inadequate containment, I photographed it, and contacted the MOE. I forwarded some of the pictures to MOE, North Bay and they in turn sent them onto Environment Canada in North Bay. From there they were directed to EC Ottawa and I was called by an Adam Scheepers of EC Ottawa. As the lower coffer was already removed, I requested that he do a site visit the following Tuesday (December 08) as the upper was being removed and it would provide an opportunity for him to ensure compliance with environmental guidelines.

Instead, he arrived on Monday when the removal was just starting and the only concerns he expressed was that of mud seeping from the tailgates on the trucks moving the material to the south side. On Tuesday, I took the liberty of having Dan Larocque of North Country Aerial do a drone flyover and photograph the environmental impacts on the river on Tuesday. I forwarded one of the photos to Adam Scheepers and his response was to direct it to the DFO and told me I was to contact Heather Flynn of DFO with future concerns as it is their file now.

- On December 10, Perry, Jaime, Jeff Barton and I participated in a conference call with Harpreet Gill and Patrice Deneault of PWGSC. The focus was on the non-compliance with the Environmental Effects Evaluation that had been prepared as guidelines for the dam re-construction. Jeff took the lead and did an exceptional job of outlining the many concerns we have experienced and have identified where they are non-compliant with their own guidelines. A letter (6 pages) was prepared outlining this and requesting specific supporting information including photographs. It was sent out today.
- The impacts document is nearing completion and it is hoped to finalize and send within the next week. Merry Christmas PWGSC!
- PWGSC advised the Town that they were satisfied with the site restoration that had been done on the parking and lay-down area of our property south of McLeod by CDB but conceded there may have to be some hydra-seeding done to bring it up to standard next spring. In consideration of that we should be agreeable to ending the rental agreement.
- Through all of this we have assembled considerable information and photographic evidence of very questionable activities that could have long term and costly impacts on the municipality, its infrastructure and the environment. It is now a matter of properly packaging this for presentation to senior levels of government.

Water Elevations

The MNRF issued a Watershed Conditions Statement-Flood Outlook for Dec. 14 which is basically a cautionary announcement of the potential for elevated water levels. That was followed up by a more detailed report from OPG on the 15th which stated: *"To put this in perspective the Earlton airport single day extreme daily rainfall on record for the period ending 2010 was 31.8mm recorded Dec 8, 1946. Earlton recorded 32.9mm on Dec 15, 2015. Snowmelt would also be contributing to the water entering the river system."*

While we have been advised that as the new section of the dam requires a boom truck for stop log operations and one would be on site throughout the winter, I would suggest it is in PWGSC's best interests to get one there now.

GLL