



Erin Waste Management Review Action Required

Committed to Preserving the Rural, Heritage and Environmental Integrity of the Hamlet of Belfountain and its Environs

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CC to: Christine Furlong, Triton Engineering Services Limited

This letter is in response to **The Town of Erin, Urban Centre Wastewater Class EA Phase 1 & 2 Report**. The Belfountain Community Organization has concerns regarding the proposed Wastewater treatment plan for Erin/Hillsburg being proposed for discharge into the Credit River. Our concerns include but are not limited to the below:

- 2.2 Principles of Environmental Planning Consultation with Affected parties - Hamlet of Belfountain residents have not been adequately consulted. The residents of Belfountain live down river from the proposed discharge site. Many of these residents' source their drinking water from the Credit River. There is concern of how the proposed sewage plant and subsequent effluent discharge will affect the quality and safety of drinking water in the hamlet.
- Concern regarding direct dumping of sewage. This has occurred on several occasions at the Orangeville plant. The Orangeville sewage plant has had several direct sewage dumps cause by too much water having to be handled, i.e. flooding conditions, and a lengthy and unreported sewage dump when the plant was not being properly maintained.

In Erin there could be the possibility of direct dumps due to three causes:

1. Flood conditions causing the plant to have too much water to handle
2. Dry conditions where there is not enough water in the upper credit river to supply to plant
3. Unreported sewage dumps, as took place in Orangeville

This raises many questions, yet to be adequately researched and understood regarding emergency and mitigating measures to prevent pollution of the waterway downstream, preventative measures so that dumping does not occur, cleanup measures in the event a spill and the environmental consequences of a spill when it does occur.

- While the CVC appears to have been involved in the process it is our understanding that the CVC asks to have 10 years of flow measurement data in order to make this type of decision and conclusions, but according to this report it was not available. Is there a plan to secure this data?

- 2.2 Identification and Consideration of the effects of each alternative on all aspects of the environment. The Credit River is a unique and fragile ecosystem that provides clean drinking water to communities along its banks, a home and spawning ground to cold water fish such as Rainbow Trout, Brook Trout, Brown Trout and Chinook salmon. This River is known as “the Crown Jewel of Southern Ontario”.
- The Credit River Valley forms the northern limit of the Carolinian Forest Zone and as such is home to many species of flora not found in any other part of Canada. The Sassafras Tree and the Tulip Tree are two examples. The Valley is strategically placed at the meeting point of the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Niagara Escarpment. It is an important source for Lake Ontario and a major migratory corridor from Lake Ontario to the interior of the province. It is a unique river in that it has a naturally producing native Brook Trout population.

The Credit Valley, supported by this river system, is home to 47 species at risk. Here live vulnerable species such as the Red Shouldered Hawk and the Yellow Breasted Chat. Provincially threatened species such as the Red Sided Dace flourish in the Credit. Nationally threatened species such as Jefferson’s Salamander, Least Bittern, Deep Water Sculpin and Henlow’s Sparrow make the Credit River Valley their home. It is a waterway of not only provincial significance but also national.

We believe that a higher level of environmental study is called for to clearly understand the impact of a Waste Management system being discharged directly into the Credit River.

Sincerely,

Judy Mabee
President Belfountain Community Organization
On behalf of the Belfountain Community Organization

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