

Outline of presentation to Pelham Council, June 7, 2021
By Brian Green, Secretary, Niagara Chapter Trout Unlimited Canada

Salutations

1. History

- a. Cannery Pond: a heat sink that warms water downstream at least as far as Hollow Rd. culverts. Temperature loggers (NPCA and Niagara College) reveal significant warming caused by sun on the surface, to the point that summer temps are lethal to sensitive aquatic organisms like Brook Trout (22 degrees). And yet, upstream of the pond is a pristine springwater environment coming out of the ground year-round at about 12 degrees. NPCA data also reveals lack of benthic and other aquatic life downstream. Further monitoring is suggested as part of the project.
- b. Compensation: St. Catharines is required to compensate for fish habitat destruction and has, after consultation, chosen the removal or by-passing of the dam that blocks the headwaters of 12 MC as a worthy project. The DFO has given approval in principle, as has the MNRF and the NPCA.
- c. Trout Unlimited Canada is a national conservation organization with a track record of handling compensation projects such as this, and in some cases much larger... usually (not always) private sector projects. The City of SC staff interviewed the CEO of TUC and her staff and determined that TUC would be a prime candidate to manage the project. As a non-profit conservation organization with experience in such projects, it seems an ideal fit. But no contract has yet been signed.

2. Process

- a. It must be stated that we are in the earliest stages of this initiative. All the concerns raised are premature. No design has been drawn, no contracts signed, no subcontractors engaged. Shovels in the ground are not imminent. We simply cannot know the answers to some of the questions that have been asked. And, anyway, as was stated multiple times at your last meeting, you are only being asked to approve expenditures by the City of SC within the boundaries of Pelham... nothing more
- b. However, let me give you some reassurance. Any such project must undergo rigorous permitting involving public consultation. The NPCA, MNRF, Escarpment Commission, DFO must all approve... as must the landowner. Notably absent from the list of approving organizations is the Town of Pelham and the City of St. Catharines. There is enough oversight without municipalities getting involved (as Jason Marr pointed out last meeting).
- c. Trout Unlimited Canada: Should TUC become St. Catharines' choice to manage the project, you have the assurance of a non profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation, protection, and enhancement of Canada's coldwater resources. But they still have to jump through all those hoops.

3. Answers:

- a. (Kore) public consultations will, of course, be held here in Pelham
- b. (Haun and letter) Rice Rd. outlet was briefly considered for this compensation but rejected because i] it didn't use up enough of the compensation money and ii] it is the responsibility of those who are at fault for the poor design and is a Town facility

- c. (Wink) the Town will not be involved in any way so will have no liability (solicitor already concurred)
- d. (everyone) Public engagement and information will clearly be part of the process.
Enquiries and concerns from your residents are premature... again, we are at the earliest stages of this long process.
- e. (letters) assumptions are being made about things that have not yet even been considered.
“The pond will fail” suggests the engineering designs will be incompetent
“No alternatives have been considered”... false
“data not available” false
“no fish in the stream” because of the dam!