

Added Item 5.1(e)

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Attn: Committee of Public Works, City of Hamilton

RE: Report PW14107(a), respecting Old Dundas Road Sewage Pumping Station (HC005) Emergency Overflow to Ancaster Creek Feasibility Study, and the installation of a stormwater overflow into Ancaster Creek

Sept. 13, 2021

Dear Public Works Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the community organisation Friends of Ancaster Creek. We are concerned with preserving and enhancing the water quality in Ancaster Creek. This creek flows through an ecologically important natural corridor, including a large section of Hamilton Conservation Authority lands and the natural lands of McMaster Forest and McMaster University. Ancaster Creek is rare, in that it is fed by cold water springs, thus providing a unique cold-water habitat for many species. At its mouth, it joins with Spencer Creek to feed into Cootes Paradise, then into Hamilton Harbour and on into the Great Lakes System. Clean water in this creek is vital for ecosystems of local, regional and national significance.

We are not in favour of any measures that would further compromise the water quality in Ancaster Creek. For this reason, we ask that you follow the staff recommendation in Report PW14107(a) not to install an emergency overflow system.

We greatly appreciate the remediation work that the city is currently undertaking as a result of the combined sewage discharge in Chedoke Creek. This indicates an environmentally responsible approach to stewardship of the waters in our region. The same care and attention should be given to Ancaster Creek. By choosing not to install an overflow system now, you will be preventing the need for more costly remediation in the future.

As city staff indicate in Report PW14107(a), "allowing the spillage of raw sewage into a tributary of Cootes Paradise and Hamilton Harbour seems counterproductive considering the expenses incurred in restoring these areas and such a project could be harmful to the City's reputation for environmental stewardship." We are in full agreement with these sentiments.

Frankly, we are somewhat shocked that this overflow pipe into Ancaster Creek is even up for discussion, given the current high level of public awareness about the importance of clean water in our region. Please give this matter careful consideration and take the right action now to help preserve the many natural gifts offered by clean water in Ancaster Creek.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally McKay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'S' and 'M'.

Dr. Sally McKay

[Redacted]

Hamilton, ON

[Redacted]

/ smckay@mcmaster.ca

Signed on behalf of Friends of Ancaster Creek: Allan Beattie (President), Sally McKay, Wayne Terryberry, Elizabeth Shaw, Crystal Helms, Noah Stegman, Edward Berkelaar, Dakota Lanktree