

Saturday, October 30, 2021

Mayor and Councillors

City of Hamilton

Re: Maintaining and Improving the Quality of Fresh Water in the Great Lakes

Dear Mayor and City Councillors

The number one natural resource that we have in Canada is the fresh water that exists in our rivers and lakes. Presently, I am not convinced that there are systems and programs in place to protect this natural resource. If they are in place, it seems that they are not being utilized.

In all good conscious I do not know how the City of Hamilton, under the direction of City Council, can continue to support and implement intensification initiatives and the expansion of development into farmland while our fresh water resources are being negatively impacted.

Within the last few weeks the City of Hamilton has allowed raw sewage to go directly into creeks and rivers that ultimately flow into Burlington Bay and Lake Ontario. As you know, this practice has happened before. Whether this is a regular occurrence or not, it is totally unacceptable.

Scientists are forecasting in the short and long term that we should be expecting higher levels of precipitation that will regularly break records that have been documented over the past 100 years.

Thus we have a perfect storm forming that will make diverting raw sewage into our fresh water basins a regular occurrence. Intensification initiatives plus increasing development in farmland plus increased occurrences of diverting sewage into our fresh water basins means that quality of fresh water will be decreasing rapidly.

I highly recommend that the City of Hamilton, terminate all intensification initiatives and the expansion of development into the farmlands immediately. It is the only responsible thing to do.

When a sewage treatment system is constructed that can handle the present and future needs of our city, then that would be the time to continue the suspended development.

On April 26, 2021, Collingwood Town Council shocked local residents, developers and bordering municipalities alike when it passed an Interim Control Bylaw (ICBL), which essentially terminated new developments for at least one year due to a projected shortfall in its treated water capacity. Considering the ramifications of the possibility of having raw sewage being diverted periodically to our local fresh water basins and further contaminating it, the City of Hamilton should take the same bold and responsible action that the Collingwood Town Council took.

I cannot think of one compelling reason why the intensification initiatives including the expansion of development into farmland should not be terminated immediately. I would like to hear from council why my recommendation cannot be implemented as soon as possible.

I would respectfully point out that the City of Hamilton should be a strong guardian of our fresh water resources. That means to do everything in your power not to ever allow raw sewage to be diverted into our fresh water basins again. Our future generations should be afforded the same quality of water that our generation has enjoyed.

Your careful consideration of my recommendation will be truly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Brad Kuhn