

Paul Renaud

From: Ken McRae <kmcrae0525@rogers.com>
Sent: September-09-09 12:19 AM
To: Councillor Glenn Brooks; Mayor Larry O'Brien; Councillor Alex Cullen; Councillor Bob Monette; Councillor Diane Deans; Councillor Diane Holmes; Councillor Clive Doucet; Councillor Doug Thompson; Councillor Eli El-Chantiry; Councillor Georges Bedard; Councillor Peter Hume; Councillor Jacques Legendre; Councillor Jan Harder; Councillor Maria McRae; Councillor Michel Bellemare; Councillor Peggy Feltmate; Councillor Rainer Bloess; Councillor Rick Chiarelli; Councillor Rob Jellett; Councillor Marianne Wilkinson; Councillor Shad Qadri; Councillor Christine Leadman; Councillor Steve Desroches; Councillor Gord Hunter
Cc: Harrison2, Michael (ENE); Paul Kehoe MOE; Hon. John Gerretsen MOE; Elms, Michael (MAH); Laurie Miller MMAH; Shaun Thompson OMNR; David McRobert ECO; Gord Miller ECO; Hon. Leona Dombrowsky OMAFRA; Hon. Donna Cansfield OMNR; Hon. Gail Shea DFO; Dana Boyter DFO; Bendig, Anne (OMNR); Alex Gardner OMNR; Paul Lehman MVC; John Price MVC
Subject: Proposed Engineer's Report for proposed Municipal Drain in wetland
Attachments: 2008 City map of organic soils, Schedule R3.pdf

To: City of Ottawa Council
Sept. 8, 2009

Subject: Item 10 on Council meeting agenda for Sept. 9, 2009, "COMMITTEE REPORTS"; AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT 44, Item 1: PETITION FOR DRAINAGE WORKS - HAZELDEAN ROAD.

The Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee (ARAC) recommendation to full City Council is "**That Council consider the Preliminary Engineer's Report for the Hazeldean Road Municipal Drain and instruct the Engineer to prepare a full Engineer's Report in accordance with Section 10(5) of the *Drainage Act of Ontario.***"

At their Aug. 27, 2009 meeting the ARAC considered a City staff recommendation for it to make the above recommendation to Council. I submitted detailed written comments to the ARAC member councillors in the early morning of Aug. 27th, and copied them to all other members of Council. A copy of those comments, without the attachments, is copied and pasted below for your convenience. I still stand by those comments and ask that you take them into consideration when making a decision on the ARAC recommendation. I also went before the ARAC at their Aug. 27th meeting to speak in opposition to the staff recommendation.

Below are my further comments on this matter.

1/ In the ARAC Report 44 from their Aug. 27, 2009 meeting attached to Council's agenda there are draft minutes regarding discussions in their meeting on the above mentioned City staff recommendation, the City staff report, and the "Preliminary Engineer's Report" under the "Drainage Act". There are errors in those draft minutes.

Example 1: They state that I "Suggested that surface water drainage within the Feedmill Creek and Flowing Creek sub water sheds be redirected or transferred into the Poole Creek sub water shed". That isn't correct as can be seen from my August submitted written comment **2/** copied below. I was pointing out that the boundaries for the "Drainage Basin" on the map in the "Preliminary Engineer's Report" are wrong as they incorrectly include part of the Feedmill Creek and Flowing Creek subwatersheds within part of the Upper Poole Creek subwatershe. This calls into question the competence of the City's consultant engineer who prepared the "Preliminary Engineer's Report" and the accuracy of the rest of his report.

I suggest and request that Council ask City staff for an explanation regarding the inclusion of parts of the Feedmill Creek and Flowing Creek subwatersheds within the "Drainage Basin" on the "Preliminary Engineer's Report" map.

Example 2: At the end of the draft minutes they state "In response to a question from Chair Jellett regarding contravening of official plan policies, Mr. Moser advised that he discussed this with staff from natural systems." That is partly incorrect. Chair Jellett was asking Mr. Moser to respond to the number **8/** comment in my August copied comments below regarding removal of beavers and their dams in the area involved contravening the City approved Upper Poole Creek Subwatershed Study and therefore the City's Official Plan policies. Moser responded that he and staff **will** look into it. He didn't have any answers at that time.

Mr. Moser has now had sufficient time to look into the above matter with other City staff. Therefore, I request that Council ask Mr. Moser during your meeting to address the above mentioned matter concerning contravention of the City's Official Plan by non-compliance with the City approved "Upper Poole Creek Subwatershed Study" which recommended that "Beavers are important to the continued functioning of the Upper Poole Creek Wetland and so active management should not be pursued in that area."

2/ In the City's consultant "Engineers Preliminary Report" it states in regard to the **proposed** "municipal drain" "The length of this drain is 4,926 meters and the drainage area is approximately 963 hectares."

Approximately 4,630 meters of the proposed "municipal drain" would be directly within the OMNR boundaries of the wetland. As indicated in my below copied August comment **6/** City Drainage Superintendent Dave Ryan has stated that a minimum of a 15 metres wide "working space" "clear of obstructions (trees, buildings etc)" from the top of bank along one side of every "municipal drain" is required for maintenance work. In the case of the proposed "municipal drain" that would mean the loss of 69,450 square metres (6.9 hectares) of wetland.

3/ The establishment of a "municipal drain" through the wetland helps the landowners petitioning for it to achieve their goal of destroying the wetland, having the Provincially Significant Wetland designation removed from their properties and then developing the land themselves or selling them for big bucks to developers to build more houses (urban sprawl). They are using the "Drainage Act" in an inappropriate way to undermine the requirements in the "Provincial Policy Statement" of the "Planning Act" to protect Provincially Significant Wetlands from "*development*" and "*site alteration*". Government should not allow, nor aid in, the destruction of significant natural environmental features to facilitate development in unnecessary locations.

4/ It has been stated in regard to this latest landowners petition for drainage works, and their previous petition, that one of their concerns is in regard to the flooding of roads. I have challenged the legitimacy of that concern for both petitions, but have received no evidence from City staff to prove that concern to be legitimate. I request that Council ask City staff for photographs showing flooding of any of the municipal roads within the proposed "Drainage Basin". It is my belief that no such photos exist because during the 50 years that I lived in Stittsville, and the several years since then, I am not aware of any such flooding having occurred. I challenge them to prove me wrong.

In my opinion this flooding of roads stated concern is nothing more than a false reason being used in an attempt to legitimize their request for a "municipal drain".

5/ In my written and verbal comments to the ARAC I indicated that beaver dams and the collapsed concrete box culvert in the Trans Canada Trail are on City owned properties and therefore a "municipal drain" isn't needed to address them. City Drainage Superintendent Dave Ryan stated at the ARAC meeting that there are beaver dams not on City owned properties for which the proposed "municipal drain" is needed to manage. I challenge the accuracy of his statement. I request that Council ask Mr. Ryan to indicate on the map showing the proposed location of the proposed "municipal drain" the locations of beaver dams not on City owned properties.

There are no beaver dams on any of the properties on the north side of Hazeldean Road because the landowners involved have clear-cut the lands along the proposed "municipal drain" route on those lands and altered the natural watercourse they now want to turn into a "municipal drain".

6/ In looking at the attached "2008 City map of organic soils, Schedule R3" from the City's proposed 2009 Official Plan, and comparing it with the map from the City staff report one can see that a large part of the proposed "Drainage Basin" has "EXISTING ORGANIC SOILS". You have to zoom in on the area just west (left) of Stittsville to see that organic soils area properly. The road numbered "36" is Hazeldean Road. The organic soils shown there are mainly, if not completely within the OMNR wetland boundaries. The proposed "municipal drain" is proposed to go through those organic soils.

Please note that consultants' reports for proposed "Country Estate Lot" subdivisions in the rural part of the city have shown there to be areas of significant amounts of organic soils that are not indicated on the attached City map. Therefore, it should be noted that not all areas of the city having organic soils are shown on the attached map.

Organic soils and vegetation are known to be "carbon sinks", which help to control greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change. In Section 2.4.1 "Air Quality and Climate Change", in the City's proposed 2009 Official Plan, it states, in part, in the preamble, "Air quality and climate change are related issues, in that they share some common causes and solutions in the context of landuse planning. Climate change is one of the critical environmental challenges facing the world and measures to both reduce GHG emissions (mitigation) and prepare for the impacts of climate change (adaptation) need to be incorporated into all levels of City decision-making including the Official Plan and related Master Plans."

It is obvious that the landowners, from some of their own statements, petitioning for the proposed "municipal drain" expect it to aid them in achieving their goal of destroying the parts of the Provincially Significant Goulbourn Wetlands Complex on their lands so as to permit development to occur there in the future or they would not have bothered to have petitioned for it.

The draining of the wetland, clearing of it's vegetation, removal and oxidation of it's organic soils would destroy it's function as a "carbon sink" and release GHGs presently locked in it's vegetation and organic soils into the atmosphere. That would be contributing to GHG emissions and thus be contrary to the above stated section of the City's proposed 2009 Official Plan. This is another reason for not approving the proposed "municipal drain" and proposed "Engineer's Report".

Conclusion

Given my above and earlier comments, copied below, the City should not approve the proposed "municipal drain". If Council decides that the proposed "municipal drain" is not warranted then the proposed "Engineer's Report" is unnecessary.

If despite my comments Council decides to approve the carrying out of a "Engineer's Report" I request that given the many environmental issues related to the proposed "municipal drain" that the City, under Section 6 of the "Drainage Act", have an "environmental appraisal" carried out to determine beforehand what environmental effects the proposed drainage works would have on the area involved. A copy of part of Section 6 of the "Drainage Act" is copied below for your information.

6. (1) Upon receipt of a notice from the initiating municipality under subsection 5 (1), a local municipality, conservation authority or the Minister of Natural Resources, as the case may be, may send to the council of the initiating municipality within thirty days a notice that an environmental appraisal of the effects of the drainage works on the area is required, and the cost thereof shall be paid by the party who requested it. R.S.O. 1990, c. D.17, s. 6 (1).

Authorization for environmental appraisal

(2) The council of the initiating municipality may obtain an environmental appraisal on its own initiative, the cost of which shall be paid by the municipality from its general funds. R.S.O. 1990, c. D.17, s. 6 (2).

With Fortitude,

Ken McRae

To: Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee (ARAC)
City of Ottawa
Aug. 25, 2009

Subject: Item 2. "PETITION FOR DRAINAGE WORKS - HAZELDEAN ROAD" on the agenda for ARAC's August 27, 2009 meeting.

The following are my comments on the above subject.

1/ The City staff report on the above subject is available for viewing via a link on the agenda for the meeting on the City's website. A copy of that report can be viewed by clicking on the link below.

<http://city.ottawa.on.ca/calendar/ottawa/citycouncil/ara/2009/08-27/2-ACS2009-ICS-WWS-0018-%20Hazeldean.htm>

The City staff report and the Stantec Consulting Ltd. "Engineer's Preliminary Report" (copy I was provided with included only one plan map, a profile, and no appendices) indicate that the impediments to drainage from the "Drainage Basin" shown on the maps in the aforementioned reports are beaver dams within the City of Ottawa unopened municipal road allowance between Lots 20 and 21, Concession 11, the collapsed concrete box culvert in the Trans Canada Trail, and beaver dams within the part of Poole Creek that flows between West Ridge Drive and the first concrete box culvert in the Trans Canada Trail west of West Ridge Drive. The aforementioned collapsed concrete box culvert is the second culvert west of West Ridge Drive. The stretch of Poole Creek spoken of is along the north side of the Trans Canada Trail, within the Trans Canada Trail right of way. The City of Ottawa owns all of these lands.

A "municipal drain" designation is not needed to allow the City to remove beaver dams on lands it owns, nor for the City to replace the concrete box culvert in the Trans Canada Trail which it owns. The City had beaver dams removed from the City's aforementioned unopened road allowance several years ago without a "municipal drain" designation.

In the City staff report, second paragraph in the BACKGROUND section, it states "Since 2004, City staff and provincially licenced trappers have undertaken regular maintenance of this road allowance." It goes on to state "However, there still remains insufficient outlet downstream to the Trans Canada Trail, and beyond,..."

It therefore appears that the only additional work that is indicated to be needed is the replacement of the concrete box culvert in the Trans Canada Trail and the removal of beaver dams from the section of the creek mentioned above. A "municipal drain" isn't needed to do that.

Further, why is it that I never hear of the City's drainage staff using "beaver bafflers"? Instead of having the financial and environmental costs of municipal drains and continually trying to trap beavers why don't they put "beaver bafflers" through their dams?

I walked the Trans Canada Trail on Sunday, June 14, 2009 and took photos of the 4 beaver dams in the above mentioned stretch of the creek. Please see attached photos (1, 2, 3 and 4) of those beaver dams and the "2005 aerial photo showing beaver dam locations". Please note that on the aerial photo part of Poole Creek is shown as the blue coloured line. Where Poole Creek is shown to cross under the Trans Canada Trail is where the first concrete box culvert west of West Ridge Drive is located.

Also, please note that on Photo 4 it shows that dam materials have been removed from the creek, probably two or more times, and piled off to the side.

2/ The "DRAINAGE BASIN" boundaries shown on the "PRELIMINARY PLAN OF THE HAZELDEAN ROAD MUNICIPAL DRAIN" is incorrect. The northerly boundaries take in an area along Rothbourne Road and on the Kaysush Management Ltd. property (see City staff report map) which are within the Feedmill Creek subwatershed. Part of the southerly boundary, in Lot 18, Concession 10, is within the Flowing Creek subwatershed. Please see attached "Upper Poole Creek Subwatershed Study Fig. 1.1". I was one of two public representatives on the committee for that study. That figure map shows the watershed boundary for the Upper Poole Creek Subwatershed (UPCS). The "Drainage Basin" boundaries on the City staff and Stantec maps go beyond the UPCS boundaries on Fig. 1.1.

I assume the "Drainage Basin" boundaries to be an error since there is no mention in either of the City staff or Stantec reports of a proposed transferring of water from any subwatershed to another. Please clarify with City staff whether this is an error or if they, and or the drainage engineer are proposing that surface water drainage within the Feedmill Creek and Flowing Creek subwatersheds be redirected or transferred into the Poole Creek subwatershed.

If such a transfer is intended it would appear to be counterproductive to the indicated goal of having less surface water on some of the drainage petitioners lands. It would also open up a number of additional concerns regarding potential impacts.

3/ The City staff and Stantec reports talk about the culvert on Poole Creek at West Ridge Drive providing "sufficient outlet", but they don't speak at all about potential negative impacts of sending larger amounts of water downstream into Stittsville (parts of which were recently flooded), the Kanata West development area, and beyond. One of the valued characteristics of wetlands is that they are natural floodplains and reservoirs.

The wetlands in the proposed "Drainage Basin" not only reduce flood risks downstream, but also in releasing water slowly help to maintain flows and fish habitat within Poole Creek, one of Ottawa's last trout streams, downstream. Those wetlands are headwaters for Poole Creek. If they are made to drain too quickly after the spring freshet and rain events then Poole Creek will dry up, the fish habitat will be lost, and the thousands of dollars, paid worker and volunteer time that have been spent on projects to rehabilitate and enhance parts of the creek will have been wasted. That should not be allowed to happen.

4/ Both the City staff and Stantec reports indicate that a major environmental concern regarding the proposed municipal drain is impacts from it on parts of the Provincially Significant Goulbourn Wetlands Complex, but they fail to provide a map showing the boundaries of those parts of the wetlands involved and their relationship with the location of the proposed municipal drain. This is a key piece of information that should not have been withheld from Councillors and the public. Therefore, for your information please see attached "2005 aerial photo showing Prov. Sig. Wetlands".

In comparing the above mentioned 2005 aerial photo with the City staff report map one can see that all of the 4,926 metres (figure from the Stantec report) of the proposed municipal drain, except for the approximately 250 metres (figure from the Stantec report) proposed to be located within the Hazeldean Road allowance, is proposed to be located within the Provincially Significant Goulbourn Wetlands Complex.

In previous City staff reports regarding proposed "municipal drain" petitions for this area they have indicated that a concern of the landowners involved is the designation of parts of their properties as Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW). I find it curious that there is no mention of that in the City staff report this time.

Councillors should be aware that several of the petitioners have carried out actions previously to destroy PSW on their properties. Immediately below is copied a news release from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) regarding the conviction and sentencing for Stephens Auto Wreckers. Gerald Stephens is one of the petitioners for part of Lot 20, Concession 10.

[Mr McRae,](#)

[As requested, this is the information about the Stephen's Auto Wreckers conviction that was released to the media in June 2001.](#)

Steve Aubry

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LOCAL BUSINESS FINED \$25,000 PLUS RESTORATION COSTS

STITTSVILLE — A local business was convicted and fined \$25,000 for harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat and ordered to conduct remedial work on the site.

Stephen's Auto Wreckers Limited of 6591 Fernbank Road Stittsville, pleaded guilty in Ottawa court on April 9 for placing massive amounts of fill into the headwaters of Poole Creek. The rear of the Stephen's property includes part of the headwater area for the Creek, which is one of the few cold-water trout streams in the Ottawa area.

It was apparent from a series of aerial photographs that between January 1, 1978 and December 17, 1999 the business had progressively filled an area of flood plain, swamp, and creek which was fish habitat. The filling ultimately relocated the creek over the course of time.

The fine imposed is in addition to the cost of the remedial work ordered by Regional Senior Justice Belanger. Remedial work includes the removal of fill, re-establishment of an acceptable slope between the creek bank and edge of the fill, and re-vegetation of the bank with native plants. Stephen's estimate the work will cost up to \$75,000. All work is to be carried out under the supervision

of the Ministry of Natural Resources and completed by October 31, 2001. In addition no automobiles are to be kept within 60 metres of the Creek.

The \$25,000 fine will be paid to the "Mississippi Valley Conservation – Upper Poole Creek Restoration Fund" for the purpose of restoring and enhancing the fish habitat of Upper Poole Creek. "This is a significant fine which will act as a deterrent to others who may consider similar works around water" said Randy Marinelli, a Ministry of Natural Resources Conservation Officer.

The investigation was conducted by the MNR with assistance of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

MNR encourages members of the public to report natural resource violations to conservation officers or to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Several of the landowner petitioners having property on the north side of Hazeldean Road were charged several years ago for illegally altering watercourses on their lands without a permit. They hired a hy-hoe to clear a swath of forest approximately 10 metres wide along those watercourses and to widen and deepen those watercourses in an effort to drain and destroy the wetland on their properties after hearing that said wetland was being considered for designation as being Provincially Significant. That matter was settled out of court.

The main watercourse involved in that case is the one they now want to turn into a municipal drain. More recently I reported to authorities that a landowner in part of the same area has relocated part of the natural watercourse into an excavated ditch, without any sediment and erosion control. I don't know the status of any charges in that matter.

Further still, what is reported to be a "forested swamp" on the north side of Hazeldean Road in the Stantec report has been mostly clearcut. A large part was clearcut in 2006 and another large part more recently. What was forested swamp is turning into much less diverse cattail marsh.

The above actions make it apparent that at least the vast majority, if not all, of the landowners petitioning for this municipal drain are only doing so in an effort to use the "Drainage Act" as a vehicle to drain and destroy wetlands on their properties so as to have the Provincially Significant Wetland designations removed from their lands to open those lands up for future development. That shouldn't be allowed to happen.

Some of the landowners may also be concerned that thus far unevaluated wetland on their properties might be designated PSW in the future.

5/ The City staff and Stantec report cite concerns about flooding of roads. That is complete hogwash. I grew up in Stittsville from 1954 on, and lived there into 2004. During that time I never saw the water level in the ditches along Hazeldean Road even come up to the edge of the shoulder of the road. What evidence is there to suggest that this concern is legitimate and not just an excuse to justify draining PSWs? I want to see it.

6/ On page one of the City staff report, last sentence, it states "There may also be some minor channel cleaning and channel reshaping, but no deepening." This inappropriately downplays the need for any environmental concerns. The report fails to mention that there is a requirement along the entire length of all municipal drains for a "working space", "clear of obstructions (trees, buildings, etc)" of at least 15 metres wide "from the top of bank along one side of the drain." Please see copy of email below from Dave Ryan, City of Ottawa Drainage Superintendent, to Sally Switzer, City of Ottawa now retired Planner, confirming this requirement.

It is my opinion that the petitioners particularly want to see this requirement put in place within the part of the PSW south of Hazeldean Road because it would result in the destruction of wetland habitat and perhaps through drainage destroy enough other wetland habitat within that part of the wetland to cause it to lose its PSW designation. If that were to occur then the part of the wetland on the north side of Hazeldean Road, which doesn't rate a PSW designation on its own, would also lose that designation.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ryan, David W
Sent: October 27, 2008 1:52 PM
To: Switzer, Sally
Subject: FW: Dowdal Drain on the Riverbend Golf Course Property

Sally,

The Dowdall Municipal Drain runs through the Riverbend Golf Course to the Jock River. A working space exists along every Municipal Drain to allow for maintenance activities and should be kept clear of obstructions (trees, buildings etc). At a minimum the working space required is 15 metres from the top of bank along one side of the drain.

Dave

7/ On page 1 of the Stantec report, bottom paragraph, it states, in part, "The reader is referred to Appendix D, for a chronological development, using available air photo plans, of wetlands in the Hazeldean Drain over the years. The air photos show that the beaver community throughout the drain is a relatively recent addition to the streams characteristics, and its impacts on the surrounding lands are significant. It is now affecting the use of lands north of Hazeldean Road and additional lands may be affected in the future. Those air photos show that the area was previously much better drained but though lack of maintenance and with an increasing beaver population the drain condition has deteriorated."

I was not provided with a copy of Appendix D, so I don't know what specific air photos the Stantec consultant is referring to. His report indicates that said air photos cover a period of "over the years", but doesn't provide any year numbers. However, part of his previous paragraph suggests that he is talking about the last 30 years. Part of that paragraph, in regard to a "site meeting", states "It was concluded that the approach which would best allow for the Conservation Authority concerns would be to provide restoration of the existing channel substantially to the conditions that existed prior to the urban expansion of Stittsville about 30 years ago, that is the Canada Trail culvert would be replaced, and there would be cleaning of the drain, however the channel would not be deepened to provide for systematic tile drainage systems and no rock excavation would be planned."

I've looked at a number of aerial photos of the proposed drainage area from 1963 up to and including 2008. I disagree with his analysis. In addition to the aerial photos I've previously mentioned please see attached "1963 aerial photo PSW on west side of Stittsville" and "May, 2008 City of Ottawa aerial photo". Hazeldean Road is the road across the top of those two aerial photos. The Trans Canada Trail, former railway line, is lower and also across them. Walker Road (most of which is now for use only as a recreation trail) and a part of Abbott Street West (also now used only as a recreation trail) in Stittsville, can be seen on the right side of the aerial photos.

Comparing the above aerial photos with the aforementioned "2005 aerial photo showing Prov. Sig. Wetlands" shows that there has been very little change in the wetland parts shown on the 1963 aerial photo. What has changed significantly between 1963 and now is that large areas adjacent to the parts of the wetland that use to be used as pasture for livestock and growing hay have been allowed to naturally become reforested. Drainage has nothing to do with that.

In regard to his indicating that beavers are now affecting use of lands north of Hazeldean Road that has definitely not been the case in Lots 18, 19 and west half of Lot 20 since at the time that those landowners had a hy-hoe clear part of the wetland and alter the watercourses back in the summer of 2003. The lower two thirds of the other two properties north of Hazeldean Road are open areas which beaver don't risk going into. So with the possible exception of the top third of those two properties the Stantec consultant is blatantly wrong. I have numerous photos of the area north of Hazeldean Road from 2002 into 2009 if any of you are interested in seeing any of them.

8/ Please be aware that the part of the PS Goulbourn Wetlands Complex south of Hazeldean Road within the proposed "Drainage Basin" up until several years ago was considered by OMNR to be a separate PSW which they called the "Upper Poole Creek Wetland".

Section 2.4.3 of the City's Official Plan deals with "Watershed and Subwatershed Plans". In the part regarding "Subwatershed Plans" Policy 9 states "Once a subwatershed plan is approved by City Council as a statement of City Council policy, the City will implement plan recommendations where it has the ability to do so, such as through existing programs, development review and approvals, environmental management plans, and other mechanisms. The City will encourage other parties to undertake whatever actions are within their jurisdiction to implement subwatershed plans."

The City approved the "Upper Poole Creek Subwatershed Plan". On page 120 of the "Upper Poole Creek Subwatershed Study - Final Report", in section 10.4.4 "Wildlife Management", one of the recommendations states "Beavers are important to the continued functioning of the Upper Poole Creek Wetland and so active management should not be pursued in that area." The City agreed to that when it approved the plan. The City should now stand by that decision. Water levels should be controlled by City staff using beaver bafflers.

9/ Many people of all ages use the Trans Canada Trail west of Stittsville. One of their favourite stops along the trail is the observation deck from the trail into the open water marsh part of the PSW along the trail. The public receive great

enjoyment from observing the wildlife that this open water marsh provides habitat for. The public observe ducks, geese, turtles, frogs and other wildlife there.

Please see attached "Photo 6, June 14, 09; wetland observation deck". It shows several people, 3 young children, a parent, another similar aged adult and an elderly couple enjoying their time there. The children were throwing bits of bread into the water and caught a Painted Turtle. Everyone had a good look at it and then it was released back into the water unharmed. The elderly couple told me that they regularly stop there to feed the waterfowl.

The open water marsh along the Trans Canada Trail is an important recreation asset and nature education location. This was recognized when the City built the observation deck there. The open water marsh should be maintained and protected. The proposed municipal drain would put it in jeopardy.

Conclusion

The City of Ottawa should not approve the establishment of the proposed "Hazeldean Road Municipal Drain". Staff gauges should be established in key locations within the wetland and Poole Creek for a 6 year period, with timely recording of water levels during the spring freshet to ice-up each year. The data collected should then be used to determine water levels required to maintain the wetlands and their habitats. Then beaver bafflers should be used to artificially control water levels within the system.

With Fortitude,
Ken McRae