From: Kat Dawson
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 5:17 PM
To: Poitras, Andrew
Subject: EPC meeting scheduled for July 15, 2020

** EXTERNAL EMAIL: USE CAUTION **

Hello Andrew,

Having reached out to Councillor Lukes with regard to my concern with algae growth on retention ponds in Bridgwater Lakes (and the resulting increasing mosquito population), I have been informed that the EPC will be further discussing this very matter while meeting tomorrow.

This is, unfortunately, short notice for me to attend to speak on the matter as a resident of Bridgwater Lakes with a property backing on to a retention pond.

Is there some manner in which my concerns can be voiced to the committee without attending? Is it possible to have the following submitted/read out at the meeting?

To whit:

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment – July 8, 2020

Item 3 Herbicides and Weed Removal in Storm Water Retention Ponds

Since the pumps circulating water in the retention ponds have been shut down I have noticed an ever increasing growth of algae on the ponds in the neighbourhood. We specifically chose to purchase a property backing on to a pond as we appreciated the significant thought that went into the development of the lands, the beautiful native grasses of the public reserve and in order to enjoy the wildlife, primarily birds, attracted to the area. We believed we had purchased a home to retire in where we would be able to enjoy the idyllic scenery and sounds which nearly capture 'lake life' yet provide us all of the conveniences and amenities which come with living in a city. We didn't ever think our "lake" would become a swamp. With the algae and with no circulation of the water reaching through the reeds we have also noticed a significant increase in the number of mosquitoes in the area which affects our ability to enjoy our deck and yard.

I have been told that the cost savings, to the City, of shutting down the pumps and fountains in lake/retention pond neighbourhoods amounts to roughly $200,000 over the planned period of leaving them shut down for four years. This seems a rather insignificant sum particularly when considering the substantial property taxes paid by residents with properties backing on to the waterways.

Councillor Lukes has rightfully raised significant issues regarding the shut down of water aeration. What maintenance plans are there for the pumps to ensure they aren't damaged by lack of use? What costs come with said maintenance? What kinds of herbicides will be used to control the algae growth and at what environmental impact? What efforts will be undertaken by the city to control the potential mosquito population explosion? I hadn't even thought of the issue of weed removal but it is certainly another valid concern.

I recently spoke with a neighbour who was unaware that the City had chosen to shut down water aeration for properties backing on to lakes/lagoons/ponds. He was as dismayed as I was when I found out what was behind the algae blooms. I wonder how many home owners, like us, are unaware and baffled by the algae and increase in mosquito activity?

The decision to turn off pumps/fountains for savings of approximately $50,000 per year does not, so far as I can tell, take into account additional expenses which will be incurred to remedy issues created by the shut down. Nor did it seem to take into account that the issues arising from lack of water aeration would negatively effect the ability of residents to enjoy their property.

Had I investigated sooner and had I learned sooner, that the issues we are experiencing were the result of a budget cut I would have personally canvassed every home backing on to the retention pond for their feedback and for their signature to oppose this action.

I respectfully request that the EPC reverse this decision and resume operation of the pumps/fountains servicing our neighbourhood retention ponds/lakes.

Sincerely,

K. Dawson