

## DELEGATION RECORD COMMENTS

### 12. Springbank Dam

- Chief Lesley Whiteye, Chippewa of the Thames First Nation, 1580 Evans Blvd – representing a proud people called the Anishinaabe and she is an Anishinaabe Kwe Ojibwa, which means she is an Ojibwa woman; advising that what she has noticed missing from the presentation is that they are Indigenous people, they are traditional to this land, to this territory, to this place called London; pointing out that what she did not see in the presentation is the Federal laws, the Constitutional laws that you also must abide by in terms of your laws; advising that those Federal laws protect their Aboriginal rights, their Aboriginal title and their treaty rights; reiterating that those were not listed there so she is here to tell the Committee about them; indicating that this decision about the decommissioning of the dam impacts all three of those; the Aboriginal title because they currently have a claim before the Federal government on the Thames River waterbed; the treaty rights because they have a treaty here called the London Township Treaty signed in 1796 as a nation to nation document, evidence of their relationship as governments working side by side; their Aboriginal rights because they have lived here for centuries and because they have this ability, they want to be using the land as they traditionally did and they are protected under Constitutional law; indicating that hunting and fishing, which, as you know, the Thames River is a key source of abundance for their community, has been for a long time and continues to be; indicating that, as you know, those laws are just as relevant to this project as the Provincial and Municipal laws that were identified in the PowerPoint presentation; indicating that they want the same things, they want clean water, a sustainable food source, they certainly want all of the things that she has been hearing in terms of recreational use, social use, economic use, spiritual use of this thing called the waterway; advising that those are all things we have in common; they are all things that she thinks we can work through if we work together; reiterating that you have laws, you have listed them there, there are shortfalls in those laws and they have laws as well; pointing out that some of the laws that she would like to bring to your attention, is that we have an obligation to seven generations ahead of us, the very decisions that we have to make, those things come first, they are their law, they have to think about those great, great, great grandchildren in our decision making; indicating that another law, we have to take time to deliberate and give the time required to make good decisions, some times that time takes a little bit longer and we respect that and we demand that, that is their law; advising that the third law that she would like to bring to the Committee's attention is that the water in our culture being Anishinaabe; advising that the law requires women in their culture to be responsible to the water; indicating that, as an Anishinaabe Kwe, they have a responsibility to be protectors of water; noting that today is International Women's Day; applauding everyone in the audience; pointing out that there are a lot of women in this room, there are some at the Committee desks and there should be more; advising that everyone understands what she is saying, you carry life, some of you have carried probably more than one or two lives and that life could not have happened without the very source of water that you carried during that time period; indicating that you are even notified by water of when new life is coming, when that water breaks, you know where you are headed; indicating that that is how important water is to us, that is our original connection to water, it is a life source and that is the context with which our nation is expecting a relationship with about this particular issue that that becomes the forefront of the discussion; pointing out that those laws do have shortfalls and we all are for an environmental assessment, we want that, that is part of your law to do, it is a requirement of your law to consult First Nations in that Provincial law and we expect that to be done; pointing out that that is not enough, these laws are only first attempts at rebuilding a relationship with First Nations that is long overdue; hoping we are going to work in partnership with the City Council going forward; advising that we have already seen an extension of a friendship already in the works between us and our nations and we continue and hope to foster that; reiterating that those laws, they can be improved upon and she can see a lot of leadership around the table that want to do that; hoping they want to do that; advising that we are willing to do that; reiterating that those laws can be improved on just as their laws need to be understood better by you, which is their responsibility to make sure that they are able to explain them and help people understand their laws; realizing that they have got work to do too, but in this particular issue, there is a new path that could be chartered here, you can choose to use those laws in a way that navigates you through a process that you can check a box and figure out a way to further separate that relationship or we can chart a new path that sets a model for other municipalities going forward on how is it that you work with your First Nations partners; indicating that when it comes to things that impact the very waterways, the lands with which we share, as defined in the London Township Treaty of 1796, they would like to do an Environmental

Assessment; indicating that there has to be an Environmental Assessment done on the decommissioning of this Dam; indicating that you have heard already from Chippewa of the Thames First Nation, their stance is that they would like to see this Dam decommissioned; pointing out that the health of the water is important; noting that there are certainly recreational uses, there are certainly economic uses, but, at this time, at this stage, in the water's health, we need to put that aside for a moment and think about what is going to be best for the long-term future generation use of that water and maybe the time right now is to put away our short-term goals and needs and to think about a long-time future for this water; advising that we need to extend this conversation past a one kilometer range within the City of London; pointing out that this conversation is about the Great Lakes Water Basin, it is larger than the City of London; advising that we live down the road from you, we collect our water, we drink from you, from this water that comes downstream; indicating that there are others who are impacted by your decision so this conversation is not just about London, not when it comes to a waterway and a watershed; advising that their needs are certainly important, their drinking water is impacted by this water; indicating that we have a responsibility and that is part of our laws, we have another responsibility not just to take care of ourselves as the human race, we have an obligation to our creation to make sure that we take care of them as well; pointing out that already you can see the work in terms of your laws around environmental work, so it is starting, you cannot ignore that, you have to acknowledge the work that is happening there; thanking the Council for taking the time to approach Council this way; noting that this is part of the work, as a Nation, there are other ways that will work and we think about working and approaching one another; reiterating that your current laws do not allow that space to happen; noting that we already identified a gap there; requesting to work together to try to push a new frontier in terms of how they will work together on issues like this of mutual benefit and mutual concern so this is just one she is sure of many to come; and, thanking the Committee for their time.

- Diane Waite, 14 Chancton Crescent – indicating that she is not here to criticize; advising that she is really upset at the way the Springbank Dam has caused such a division in the City of London; indicating that an Environmental Assessment is absolutely important because she thinks it can be a win-win; suggesting that instead of t-shirts about decommissioning the Dam or t-shirts about fixing the Dam, what about a t-shirt with a canoe in it, she is paddling it and someone else is fishing from it; thinking that we can work together on this; pointing out that if we focus on giving back to the Forks of the Thames, which we know that water is vital, we need to raise the level of that water for four months of the year, have people paddle on it, canoe on it, fish from it, stroll along the River, we could do so much with that if we look at what other cities have done with their waterways and we are lucky to have water; and, indicating that there are buskers and food trucks and entertainment and all sorts of things that could be licensed and pay for itself and she does not think that before any decisions are made or get so angry with one another if we wait for the Environmental Assessment and then make a responsible decision because we have got a lot of smart people in this city, both environmentally and ethnicity planning.
- Robin Whimster, 55 – 250 North Centre Road – indicating that canoeing or kayaking on the river, especially solo, is an amazing experience; advising that, as city dwellers, we think that we can control our environment; indicating that, on the river, the environment controls you; pointing out that it is a different relationship; pointing out that it is just you, your paddle, the canoe and the river; advising that the river is a force that you ignore at your peril; noting that it is not about skills, it is about the river becoming a friend, respected, to share it, to explore it, and all its moves and you cannot learn that from the riverbank; reiterating that the Canoe Club made this experience available for anyone, it was right here in the city so that people coming by could experience the river, not just look at it; indicating that they could experience it and many who might not otherwise have been on a river or even on any water for that matter, had this possibility because it was right here; noting that he was treasurer of the Canoe Club; indicating that before the new Dam was built they were 2,400 people of all ages, sizes, shapes and we had this relationship with the river and the Rowing Club was there, too, providing a whole different relationship; indicating that we all wish for a healthy river; realizing that there is nobody that he imagines is here who does not wish for a clean, healthy river; advising that just because we want to paddle on it does not mean that they are different; indicating that, for him Larry Corniss was right with his excellent article that he hopes everyone has read in the London Free Press on Saturday; advising that he watched as the Dam was being built, he was Treasurer of the Canoe Club then and he saw the old Dam removed, the new Dam being built and specifically it was meant to be a dynamic adjustment so that the management of the river was much more possible than it was with the old stop log; pointing out that nobody has experience with the new Dam and how it can manage the river yet because it never worked; thinking of it in terms of the old stop log dam is not really a valuable way of looking at it; believing that a recreational use on a healthy river can be a win-win for everybody;

noting that he does not think that they are mutually exclusive; indicating that we talk about Back to the River and the river being a major asset to the city and building at the Forks; pointing out that, at present, it is a passive relationship, there is a missing ingredient and that is involvement with the river; pointing out that it is not it and us, it is us altogether; asking that people think of the value to the city, this is an asset and he thinks that we should treat it as an asset; asking that people think of the activities that could be part of the river, part of the Forks, think of Canada Day on the river at the Forks; indicating that it would strengthen the relationship between the river and the city and create some excitement; thinking that, from a city point of view, we need all of that that we can get; summarizing these major benefits from the city, first of all there is the experience with the river for individuals; second, there is the availability of it right here in the city; third that we are a built-up environment, we are a city, we are not a wilderness and there is the greater involvement with the river, much more than we have at the moment; the fourth and probably the most important is that recreation and a healthy river are not mutually exclusive, they co-exist; and, thinking that we can, as the previous speakers have indicated, we can do this in a responsible way and get those benefits.

- Sean Lewis, on behalf of Irene Mathyssen, Member of Parliament, 1700 Dundas Street – See letter appended to the agenda.
- Dr. Michael Murphy, 10 McKellar Avenue – See letter appended to the agenda advising that he has been a Londoner for almost seventy years; indicating that he swam in the Thames River and its tributaries in the 1950's and 1960's and he has rowed and canoed on it since then; pointing out that, in the early 1970's he worked with Dr. Douglas Bocking and others to raise funds to build the Joe McManus Canoe and Rowing facility and then to establish recreational and competitive programs for Londoners; advising that, since then he has worked with others to host rowing events on the river and the lake in his capacity as president of local, provincial and national and international rowing groups; advising that, as a professional historian, he has written about the impact of the river and its importance to the community over the past two centuries; advising that nine years ago he and his wife moved to the Thames Valley Golf Course area to take advantage of and to admire, like many of our neighbours, the beauty of this heritage river in its many forms; believing that a silent majority of Londoners support high water for five months of the year; noting that they have demonstrated great patience in waiting for City Councillors to resolve the issue in a timely and proper manner; indicating that this trust has occurred despite the fact that the Rowing and Canoeing Clubs membership and equipment have been decimated by the delay; indicating that his vision of the way forward supports, first, a healthy, vibrant, beautiful, functional watercourse between the Forks and the Springbank Dam and elsewhere; second, the consensus arrangement that has served Londoners so very well for so many decades with high water from May to October; third, an Environmental Assessment to identify the legal obligations, the environmental concerns and the appropriate alternatives to fairly and transparently decide the matter; pointing out that he advocates this approach to the matter because of his belief that a compromise solution will satisfy most locals; noting that it is the residents who appreciate the aesthetics of a brimming river and the social, cultural and economic value and opportunity that it provides to Londoners, the residents who believe that high water best compliments the Back to the River project, the residents who appreciate the fact that trade-offs must occur, the ones that balance environmental concerns and the desires of all interested parties, the residents who want to honour and reinstitute the long-standing beneficial, excellent canoeing and rowing programs for high school, club, master and recreational rowers and paddlers, the residents who understand the importance of acceptable, central, core, recreational and competitive water sports to the activities and community, the residents who acknowledge the residents of East London are well served by Fanshawe Dam while Springbank Dam serves the same purpose for West Londoners, the residents who relish the continuation of historical sports in historical venues, the residents who understand that the Springbank Dam is not the root cause of the rivers' pollution problem; noting that the challenge is above Fanshawe Dam; removing the Springbank Dam will not, by itself, produce a healthy river nor will it sufficiently improve conditions for friends and communities below the Dam; the residents who understand that with more than 150 Dams east of Fanshawe Dam, the Thames River in and near the historic part of London is not free flowing, the residents who believe that much of the science thus far used for a decommissioning of the Dam is selective, outdated and flawed, the residents who support James Shelley's argument that increasing the usability, the accessibility, aesthetics and functionality of this stretch of the river is our best hope for assuring its health for future generations; and, the residents who desire a made in London solution.
- Martin Hettwer, 48 Friars Way – see letter appended to the agenda.

- Shawn Lewis, 67 Trapper Street – talking about one factor that probably no one else is going to touch on tonight and that is the political reality of this discussion; advising that the Committee members know that he has been involved in multiple campaigns in all three levels of government in this city for the last fourteen years; reminding the Committee that a lot has changed since the City signed that agreement in 2005; pointing out that, of the twenty-five members who are sitting as elected representatives at the Federal, Provincial and Municipal levels at that time, three remain; noting two around the Committee horseshoe and one Federal Member of Parliament, all of the rest have moved along since then; indicating that there has been quite a change in Ottawa, too, we have a new Prime Minister who is saying that a new partnership, a supportive partnership with municipalities, a new relationship with our First Nations brothers and sisters and that cleaning up our environment are priorities; indicating that it would simply fly in the face of those priorities for the Federal government to come knocking for its money back now, especially when it is handing out money for Dam decommissioning with one hand while coming to London to ask for money on the other hand; advising that that would be politically difficult at best and may actually cost them seats in the next Federal election at worst; indicating that it is a political disaster for a political party to be faced with that kind of claw back give out; indicating that he does not believe that the City has to worry about the Federal government coming to ask for its money back; talking about the recreational and the impassioned and he understands the passion of the people who say that there are recreational opportunities here but we cannot look at this issue through rose coloured glasses at a bygone era that never really existed; pointing out that, with the exception of perhaps Councillor Salih, all of the Councillors around the horseshoe and most of the public are old enough to remember when that Dam was in operation and there were no great masses of humanity down a the river front contributing to economic growth and prosperity of the City at that point in time; indicating that we have a top notch rowing facility out at Fanshawe Lake and he hears that the winds are sometimes an issue, but you know what, with outdoor sports, weather is an issue regardless of your location; advising that they also hear that it is hard to get to Fanshawe Lake; pointing out that we are undergoing a transformative process in our Cities transit future right now; suggesting to make the case that transit should be able to get rowers out there; advising that emotional pleas based on recreational opportunities do not make for sound policy decisions but let us say that there is some basis for recreational opportunity there, he wants to do some real quick math with the Committee for the sake of argument; using some Canoe Club and Rowing Club numbers and round those off and he is going to say that a best case scenario is 4,000 users; pointing out that we have heard repeatedly that the Dam is only in operation three or four months of the year; indicating that we are talking about one ninetieth of our population using something one quarter to one third of the year; being fair and saying that those 4,000 individuals are going to use the river twice a month for the times that it is available; talking about 24,000 uses in a year, which is less than the activity generated by three London Knights home games in an entire season; pointing out that that is a minimal impact for a city this size and with so many competing interests in our society today, do we really believe that creating a ponding effect on a couple of kilometers of river are going to create a tremendous economic boon for the city because if we really believe that then we need to look at the facts; indicating that the economic business case is simply not there; advising that the information that you have is clear and tonight you are completing a public engagement process, there has already been considerable feedback to you through media, through social media, through e-mail, through meetings of clients and politics, meetings hosted by the Urban League and now you are hearing it tonight so it is time to show the political will and make a decision; remembering also that Back to the River already proposes a ribbon or a bridge lookout over the river so converting the Dam to a second one when we are not even sure about the value of the first one simply does not make good economic sense; and, asking the Committee to not muddy the waters, not do what is convenient for senior staff or the administration at the Ministry of Natural Resources but end the colonial attitude towards dominating nature and dominating our First Nations communities, put it in the past where it belongs, consign it to the history bins, access the Federal funds that are available and move to decommission the Dam.
- Robert Huber, President, Thames River Anglers Association and the Chair, Science and Engineering Technical Committee for the Ontario Rivers Alliance, 2202 Coronation Drive, Hyde Park – advising that they have worked diligently to compile an evidence based case for decommissioning Springbank Dam that is supported by over twenty different organizations representing over 250,000 members; advising that the Thames River is one of the most ecologically diverse systems in all of Ontario with over 90 species of freshwater fish, including 11 that are identified by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife Canada as threatened or at risk following the three year study by Chris Bundt of BioTactic Research, he reported that the seasonal Springbank Dam closure causes at least two major negative ecological impacts, the first being river fragmentation and the blockage of fish from migrating upstream to spawn or feed, the second is that the 55 hectare run of

river impoundment creates conditions that encourage silt deposition and oxygen depletion that renders the river unsuitable for many fishes and decreases the survival of fish eggs and larvae; reporting that the mussel study that was completed by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, not outdated, but in the Fall of 2015, revealed significantly higher numbers of the once endangered wavy-rayed lamp mussels within the forked section of the Thames; advising that these mussels are key indicators of aquatic health as they are usually one of the first to disappear from an unhealthy ecosystem; according to the Aquatic Species at Risk and the Thames River Watershed report that was published in 2004, habitat alteration is one of the greatest significant threats to freshwater mussels; indicating that Dams alter the substratum composition, temperature regimes and dissolved oxygen concentration and cause an accumulation of silt which smothers the mussels in the impoundments and separates them from their fish hosts; advising that the Reptiles at Risk and Recovery Program that has been actively studying the turtles and the snakes within the Thames River Watershed for the past twenty years, the area between Springbank Dam and Harris Park was of particular interest as it has gone through a notable ecological recovery since the time when the Dam broke; pointing out that the Thames River is home to the largest colony of Spiny Soft-shelled turtles in Canada now and in 2015, over 50 nesting sites were identified along with nurseries, thermal regulation and foraging grounds located within the shoreline that would be flooded with a functional Dam; advising that studies also identified hundreds of other repairing and inhabitants including Snapping turtles and Queen snakes, such seasonal fluctuating water levels and sedimentation will result in the direct mortality of these species and would end the recovery that has taken place over the last eight years; indicating that it is unequivocally wrong to suggest that this could be prevented by flushing it annually or on some sort of more frequent basis; indicating that many Londoners, including himself, actually never turned their back on this nationally designated heritage Thames River; advising that they consider it more enjoyable to be around since the Dam broke, they still paddle their canoes down it during the summer, we fish its runs from the Spring right through the Fall, we frequent its trails and parks for everything from quiet relaxation and bird watching to exercising and maybe even listening to the Tragically Hip play a concert down in the heart of the city; advising that it is more vibrant than it has ever been and it is proof that a healthy river will continue to attract the community and encourage business within our downtown core; advising that the Civic Works Committee and the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee recently recommended that the City initiate a holistic One River Environmental Assessment, which suggests that one larger Environmental Assessment should address multiple smaller projects and a broader area including consideration of the Springbank Dam; indicating that their organization, along with many Londoners, attended the community consultation meetings for that inaugural Back to the River Design Competition; outlining that in those sessions any discussions regarding the role of Springbank Dam in the project were discouraged and the agencies competing were given clear instructions to submit entries that did not require a seasonal reservoir and any suggestions that this project is somehow reliant on a functional Springbank Dam is, in fact, misleading and will be met with opposition from the community; indicating that it is important to note that there is no public information yet available that outlines the cost of repairing, operating or ensuring that this Dam will not fail again; pointing out that Council has already approved \$700,000 to be spent on a Back to the River Environmental Assessment; including the consideration of an operational Dam into the Environmental Assessment will jeopardize its timely and cost effective completion simply based on the environmental concerns and extensive effort required to protect the threatened species at risk within the river system; pointing out that the truth is that we cannot claim to be one of Canada's greenest cities in terms of sustainability and environmentally friendly policies and decisions if the community and civic leadership places a higher value on recreational use and perceived aesthetics of the river than the eco side that damming it causes the environment; summarizing that, in closing, our organizations are going to ask the following of our elected Council, first, that city staff be directed by Council to provide full disclosure of the actual cost to repair the Dam, necessary design changes to resolve fish passage issues that is required along with expected annual operating costs, the community and the other agencies involved need this information to provide informed feedback to Council; secondly, we ask that Council reject the proposed One River Holistic Environmental Assessment as it would jeopardize the likelihood of a successful Back to the River inaugural project; pointing out that you cannot take a good project and strap a bad project to it and think that that is going to work; thirdly, following the community consultations, along with the additional meetings with staff, experts and involved agencies, that the City Council passes a motion to decommission Springbank Dam; and, failing a decision for full decommissioning that Council would give full consideration to the very well thought out proposal by Councillor Bill Armstrong to repurpose the structure, they ask that any leftover funds, after removal of the hydraulic system and gates, if that is actually what results from that Environmental

Assessment, would be used towards projects that would improve the quality of water and protect the at risk species of fish, mussels, turtles and birds within the watershed.

- B. Callow, on behalf of the Thames Water Keepers – notes emailed – stating he is a long-time Londoner for 61 years; indicating that for the past ten years Springbank Dam has been non-operational; suggesting that during this time there has been much false information given to the general public and Council of the day that the Thames River is running free and cleaner; suggesting that everyone would agree that this line of thinking would make sense; stating that this is an urban river shared with many cities, towns, villages and four First Nations groups along the Thames River Watershed; stating the Thames River is also surrounded by Ontario's largest farming belt; indicating again that there has been an enormous amount of false information; stating that in his opinion it is water quality that we have to explain and research; stating he believes that an EA has to be encouraged to fully comprehend the status of the Thames River; suggesting that from what information is available it would appear that the Thames has not been cleaner during the past ten years; stating that the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) does in fact state on their website that while swimming is not permitted in the Fanshawe Reservoir, there is a swimming pool and splash pad available to campground users; quoting the UTRCA "We closed the reservoir to swimming in 2009 due to the presence of blue green algae, which is potentially toxic when absorbed through the skin, and that blue green algae has been an issue of much importance affecting drinking water in the Thames and Lake Erie which is one of the recipients of the Thames"; stating that one would have to ask themselves if Fanshawe is closed to swimming why would they allow paddling on the reservoir in such a toxic substance; indicating that the Springbank Dam has been down during this time and when the Dam was operational there was never a case of blue green algae behind the Springbank Dam; stating that in 2014 it was documented that Lake Erie suffered the worst case ever of this toxin that was the size of Prince Edward Island, creating a deadzone; stating that Toledo, Ohio was forced to shut down its water intake for three days from Lake Erie, indicating that there is scientific proof that the spores of this toxin have been confirmed to be coming from the Thames; stating that last year Pelee Island was adversely affected, closing its shoreline on the west side of the island; advising that on the UTRCA website it states that there are over 170 dams, weirs and other obstructions that flow into the Thames River through the 28 tributaries that are in their jurisdiction; stating that the Thames River is 283 kilometres long from Springbank to Lake St. Claire; indicating there are no obstructions on the Thames of this 197 kilometres; stating that it is approximately 22.5 km from Fanshawe Dam to Springbank Dam; indicating that we do know that when the dam was operational the Thames created a part time reservoir to the Forks of the Thames for only five months of the year; stating that from the Forks to Springbank Dam this water is replenished or flushed out every 48 hours; indicating that this does not depict a stagnant body of water; also indicating that on the UTRCA website from 2007 to 2012 there were 666 reported spills on the Thames within their jurisdiction; this does not include facts about what, who or the size of these spills other than to mention that it was industrial or fuel spills; indicating that their updated report card is due to be published in 2017; stating that there has also been much support from the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) based in Toronto, recommending the decommissioning of the Springbank Dam; stating that on the WWF website it states that their national assessment of the watershed health shows that water quality scores of phosphorous in and around the dam is poor, specifically phosphorous levels exceeded water quality guidelines in more than 70% of water samples taken between 2008 and 2012; suggesting that one would have to ask themselves if looking at that statement would one not say that this is proof the water is poor, indicating that this study was done when the dam was not operating and confirms that the water is still polluted when the river was running free, suggesting that the anglers have submitted a report to Council with the support of D. Spangler, President of Lake Erie Water Keepers Inc. Vice President of Lake Erie Troutiers Boat Association, with a search indicating that both of these associations are from the United States and the other supporters are not on or near the Thames River Watershed; suggesting that everyone is welcome to comment on the issue, he would think that more foresight should be given to those who are directly affected by this issue; stating that at present only Chief Whiteye from Chippewa has had the opportunity to speak on this issue; stating that he believes that an Environmental Assessment should be done with the engagement of the Onieda Settlement, Chippewa, Muncee, Meravian Town, First Nations people with their consultation and all the updated facts presented to them and include them in future discussions on this matter; indicating that the First Nations people receive their drinking water indirectly from the Thames from well systems and have fished for centuries on the Thames and continue to do so today even though the government has put restrictions on how many meals of fish you can eat monthly, with further restrictions based on your age and if you are pregnant; applauding all the volunteer groups that get together annually to clean the river including shopping carts, tires and countless other trash; indicating we can do better; applauding the UTRCA for their endless work on

species at risk like the spinney soft shelled turtles and other reptiles; indicating we can do better; stating that the Thames was designated a heritage river with much great work done by volunteers on the main grounds that the Thames watershed supports a great diversity year round recreational activities including canoeing, kayaking, fishing and camping, heritage appreciation, cross country skiing; indicating that the Thames has a rich cultural and historic background, stating again that we can do better; stating that in the past he has advised Council on a number of environmental issues including the crows, that for a time roosted in great numbers causing problems in the evening hours in London, and the deer in Sifton Bog, at the time I said do nothing and the problem will shortly resolve itself, and it did, requesting that this time action on the water quality of the Thames River upstream from the Springbank Dam where the apparent major problem comes from.

- G. Henry, 1148 St. Anthony Road – indicating that he lives within viewing distance from Springbank Dam; noting that they hear so many differing opinions about the Springbank Dam, if you ask the experts about the Dam their answers can be interpreted in more than one way, and a number of different conclusions can be drawn; further noting that engaging in the debate about the Dam has afforded him the opportunity to meet many people who know more than he does about the various concerns; expressing that he has learned that water that is cleaner, due to all the improvements to the Greenway Treatment Plant, have no connection to the Dam being open; further noting that he has learned from the anglers, that native species to the Thames are very adaptable, they will spawn where they have to and that is why the area, even in front of the broken Dam, can be a desirable place to fish whether the Dam is in or out; he has learned that hatchery breed fish, not native to the Thames, need new breeding grounds not dominated by the native species, that is why the 6.5 km of riverbanks created without the Dam are important to the hatchery breed fish, trout, pike, salmon; advising that he has learned that heavy rains from climate change are causing many more frequent releases of water at Fanshawe, waters that floods these new breeding grounds, that results in spawning in this stretch will likely be futile; further advising that he has learned that invasive species, the Asian Carp to be specific, will likely find their way into the Thames Watershed, and the only way of preventing them from getting to the river is the Dam; advising that critics will tell you that the reservoir created behind this dam is actually lower and narrower than the original river before the other dams upstream lowered the water in London, the water behind this dam actually filters through, on average, every 48 hours preventing typical stagnation; expressing that dams that are closed year-round can cause sedimentation and eventually toxification can occur, but not at Springbank Dam which is open for 7 months a year; indicating that the many experts that he has consulted do not describe this Dam with the negativity that the opponents have implied, in fact the Springbank Dam is a model of how a dam can be operated in an environmental and ecological way; further expressing that the balance of the impact on the environment and ecology should always be the main concern when human adapt their surroundings to their needs; further noting that the City has been nurturing a Springbank and Greenway Parks for well over a century, they have created a carefully balanced nature with recreation, resulting with both Parks being valuable assets to the City; further noting that the Parks have always been valuable assets to the City; noting that the Parks have always existed on the banks of the Thames River, and the River has always been a focal point for Londoners, for over 10 years there has been no river to enjoy to recreate with, to draw us back to nature, perhaps it is that fondness for what the Thames River once was that has spawned the Back to the River movement, where Londoners can reengage with our River; indicating that recreation and fitness are often very different goals to sustain over time; noting that rowers and canoers who are fanatical about getting to the river to row, to canoe, you could call it their happy place; further noting that for decades, every day, you can see happy, fit, healthy Londoners participating and loving their sport and their river, in the middle of London; it was a fast natural haven for life in the City, so accessible and so amazing; expressing that the Thames River is so special that in the 10 years since it was last useable over 95 percent of the 3,000 members of the London Rowing and Canoe Club no longer participate in these activities, the alternative to rowing and canoeing, and for various reasons, has been proven not to be sustainable, paddling on the vast reservoir on Lake Fanshawe does not connect you in the same way as it does on the river, on the river the banks, the parks, the homes, the golf course, the bridges, the people walking on the path that engage you, these are all vital things to being on the river, but perhaps it is the safety aspect of being on an open lake as opposed to a narrow river; the algae bloom present on the lake but not on the river; indicating that the experiences and the accessibility make the River and the Lake so different, and perhaps that is why so many Londoners have discontinued rowing and canoeing; further indicating that 10 years and the loss of thousands of Club Members is a staggering statistic, but it is also a testament to how amazing the 6.5 km stretch of Thames River was to many Londoners, who no longer can maintain their health, their fitness and their enjoyment of nature on the Thames River; further noting that the many Londoners that thrived on the River did not complain about the only 5 months of use, they respected

the ecological needs, they embraced the environmental concerns, they loved the Thames River, they shared it and they sang its praises; indicating that they know it is one of the best things about living in London, visiting Rowers and Canoers always express their genuine envy of Londoners having such a great resource in the middle of the City; expressing that they believe an Environmental Assessment will demonstrate that the Springbank Dam is compatible with the environment and provides more benefit than harm, historically London thrived on the Thames and it will again.

- S. Ross, 203-95 Baseline Road W, President/Head Coach, London Rowing Club – expressing that without the Dam and the high water it provides, recreation opportunities on the Thames would be extremely limited for the majority of the citizens for the last ten years, the century before the 2007 replacement of the Dam, Londoners had the opportunity to enjoy the river and the opportunities afforded to canoe, kayak enjoy river cruises and row; as a City we have come to a crossroads with the future of the stretch of Thames that runs through the City's core, the question seems to be, do we want a vibrant river or do we want the current state, which can best be described as a large ditch most of the year, indicating that as historical background, since the 1960's the London Rowing Club has called the Thames it's home, the River's accessibility and proximately to the population to the City helped to grow the London Rowing Club and 100's of youth and adults alike rode and raced yearly on the Thames; noting that a number of Olympians and national team members got their start on the Thames, representing the Club at numerous events, with great success, since 2007 and the Club's on-water programs moving to Fanshawe Lake, the Club has struggled to maintain membership and the quality of programs that they were able to offer on the Thames, while Fanshawe Lake is home to London Rowing Club it is not accessible to the residents and the Club does not have the same facilities on Fanshawe as they do on the Thames; indicating that the Rowing Club used to annually host the Thames regatta every September until the Dam was rebuilt, this regatta brought 2,000 vendors and their supporters from all over North America, local businesses, restaurants, hotels, all benefited from this annual event, the Club benefited from this annual event, the Club has received emails since the last event asking when the Dam will be fixed so they can come back to London to race on the Thames; further noting that they are really amazed that the City is not taking the action to restore the Dam to its usable state; indicating that a river is an asset to any city, there are numerous examples of cities that revitalize themselves through the rivers, let's take Pennsylvania for example, where three rivers meet at a fork like our Thames, they revitalized that area and the stretch of all three rivers to allow the citizens to enjoy the heart of the City; Hartford, Connecticut river front recapture project beautified and restored the waterfront but also brought recreation to the river, where it did not previously have a presence, there are many other examples of cities worldwide who have used their waterfronts to revitalize their cities and make vibrant communities recreational opportunities on the river; expressing that much has been made in the media about the water quality, with or without the Dam the water quality still exists; any decision made without the benefit of an environment assessment will not provide an informed decision but play a significant part on the larger downtown London revitalization project; further noting that the community wants a healthy river, rowers want a healthy river to row on, however, without the 2016 research on impact on the quality of the water flow of the Thames, a truly balanced approach to the environmental, economical, social and cultural perspectives, a truly educated decision cannot be made; further expressing that he hopes you are supportive of the environmental assessment and that it should be favorable in fixing the Dam, and support that as well, so that we can all get back to enjoying the Thames as a recreation asset that was for Londoners for over a century and that asset can be for Londoners for the next century
- G. Gallacher, Board Chair, Downtown London, 1116 Quintan Road – indicating that the Downtown London is in support of a vibrant, active river front; noting that they would like to see a river that is clean, flowing and one that you can participate in and on and with; further indicating that they encourage the undertaking of the Environmental Assessment to the Dam so that we can understand what the needs are for the River and the best way for the City of London to use it.
- Dr. J. Pennycook, 333 Regal Drive – expressing that what she is about to say is a bit of a shout-out, she is picking up the point again about the acrimony, this is our shared river in a city of 381,000 people before we even being talking about the watershed; indicating that there is lots of room for multiple viewpoints, a worthy opinion can be defended on the basis of ideas, not name calling, those of us who care deeply of the River need to find a way to work together, we all want the same thing, we can't come out of this divided; she would also like to call out the amount of misinformation, there has been a lot of misinformation being flung around; noting that they currently need a new Environmental Assessment on the Thames project, and this Environmental Assessment should guide all decisions about the River, including Springbank Dam; expressing that she would like to talk about the River we know, with the people who know it, based on the facts from that River; indicating that she would like to bring up a new topic, she want to talk family values, and she hasn't gone



Republican on you, she want to talk about the role of the canoe club, because in some ways the Canoe Club has been its own worst enemy, the Canoe Club quietly put 100's, 1,000's of people on the river, parents, children, families on the River; noting that when her kids were growing up it was about \$35 for a membership, for the year, you could paddle every day for \$35 if you went down and picked up your canoe, my kids liked to canoe there, she learned to canoe there, there were non-mandatory courses offered that ranged from beginner to advanced that you could choose to take and the club membership gave access to all sorts of social activities that were fun; expressing that her favorite memory, and she still talks about it with her kids, was paddling as a large group from the Canoe Club to the Forks of the Thames where they rafted to watch the fireworks, and the they paddled back in the dark with headlamps, those things were fun, they were good memories, right now of course that is not happening; expressing that this was unparalleled shared recreational opportunity, in nature, for parents and kids, and she challenges the Councillors right now, to name any other program that can match this in the City, the City funds park and recreation, all sorts of things, but the Canoe Club quietly did its thing and put all of these people on the River together, not watching kids run in soccer field, out in a canoe together, active, outside; further raising the issue of stranded assets, she is really happy to hear that more money coming in, because the membership of Rowing and Canoe Club raised their own funds for that Centre that is now on Springbank Park, that Centre that can no longer be used; noting that the building was constructed in good faith on land donated by the City, and there was an expectation that there would be water there, if the water level is not restored, this building becomes a stranded asset, as do all the canoes, equipment that are in it that use to be shared with the public; further expressing that the cost of buying out this asset should be calculated as an additional cost to the City to be reimbursed to those two Clubs; lastly, safety should be first, she already asked them to name a compatible program that has brought so many parents and children outdoors in the City and she suggests that they can't name one; noting that the floating dock at the London Canoe Club allowed people of all ages, skill levels and physical abilities to safely access the canoe, all physical abilities; further indicating that the Springbank Park location is no longer acceptable, the City must assume the cost of relocating the Clubs to a new location on the Thames that ensures the same degree of access and safety for all canoeists, all ages, all stages, all abilities; expressing that the City of London is being extremely cavalier about the enormous debt it owes the London Canoe Club for its largely volunteer work, hundreds of hours of volunteer work, promoting and facilitating safe recreational canoeing for the families in this City; indicating that there is a saying that goes that we don't appreciate what we get for free, and in this instance, she would suggest that the Canoe Club has been entirely too generous, because it asked the City for nothing and it gave back an incredible program that is being completely ignored at this point in time.

- B. Moncrieff, 125 October Crescent, Reset Management Group – expressing that he is a past member of the London Rowing Club, Vice President and a very active member of the Rowing Club, he has also worked in the environmental sector for over 35 years, so he sees things from both sides; further expressing a couple of personal notes indicating his close ties to the River as many other Londoners that we heard today; noting that he grew up in Byron in the 1950's after our family immigrated from England in 1957, he remembers many family picnics, fishing on the banks of the Thames River in Springbank Park above the Dam, in fact the Carp we caught was a source of fertilizer for my parents gardens, they had the best roses on the street; expressing that for those old enough to remember, looking around they are close to my age, there were days when phosphate builders were using laundry detergent to enhance their cleaning power, these are banned today but at the time large clouds of foam would be produced as water flowed over the Dam, it would lodge in trees, lining the banks below the Dam; noting that it wasn't the Dam that caused the adverse water quality, it was discharges up river; further expressing that those supporting decommissioning the Dam are linking adverse water quality issues to Springbank Dam, thus ignoring the impacts of stormwater discharges, sewage effluent, combined sewer overflows, sewage bypass incidents and diffused agricultural runoff up river; noting that in reality the same level of contaminants will pass down the River to Lake St. Clair regardless of the Dam, to improve the water quality you must address the source of the problem; indicating that as a young athlete in the late 60's and early 70's, he was a member of the London Rowing Club and returned as a master rower in the mid 1990's; during the June August period, before the current clubhouse was erected, the City of London allowed the Club to use the old Pumphouse by Storybook to store the rowing equipment; further indicating that without the support of the community large donations from businesses and individuals and in agreement with the City, the McManus building would not have been built on Wonderland Road; noting that many here today remember, with fondness, when people gravitated to the River at that location before 2006, the paddleboats, canoers, rowers, kayakers, not only for recreation and exercise, but as an opportunity for many to escape the rigors of daily life and to bring them closer to all the wonders that the River provides; indicating that historically the stretch of water from the

Forks to the Dam has been a recreational focal point for Londoners for more than a century, that part of the river has significant social value; noting that before 2006, the McManus building was home for about 3,000 London rowing and canoe club members and the site of a well know head of the Thames rowing regatta in September, each year bringing in over 2,000 athletes plus many supporters from Ontario and New York, Michigan and Illinois States to the City; indicating that he has been a professional in the environmental sector for over 35 years as an educator and an environmental officer and today he specializes in sustainability as a consultant; further expressing that he understands the issues from an environmental, economic, cultural and social perspective, it is a complex issue, however Springbank Dam is, in my view, is a local sustainability issue, they often confuse sustainability with ecological concerns, with conversation groups attempting to move their agenda forward, framing an issue narrowly from an environmental perspective, not recognizing social equality and economic concerns of other stakeholders, this situation leads to a deadlock as we are seeing; with polarized viewpoints and an inability to compromise; expressing that the Council Members have an opportunity to work with stakeholders to find a balanced solution, one that satisfies all and future generations; lastly, he strongly recommend Council to avoid breeding the Springbank Dam as a single environment issue but instead look to the issue from a sustainable perspective, focusing a collection of value around a healthy ecosystem, economic viability and social equality.

- S. Tanner, 84 Brunswick Avenue – expressing that as a long time paddler, Londoner, volunteer, parent and grandparent, he has watched with amazement the enormous amount of misinformation that is being spread about the Springbank Dam; indicating that since 2005 he has watched with sadness the enjoyment of being on the water has disappeared from the City, no longer can people ride along the bike path to the boathouse, take their children or their partner out for a quiet paddle and then ride home, no longer can high school students, children from the Boys and Girls Club and others learn in that quintessential of Canadian activity, paddling your own canoe or kayak, no longer can potential future Olympian emulate their role model and train to be faster and stronger, no longer can Londoners, of all types, rich and poor, engage in a healthy activity that they love and here in London paddlers are a species at risk; indicating that as a past president of the London Canoe Club he can tell you that the paddlers are certainly not an elite group, the Canoe Club has always offered inexpensive opportunities for Londoners, new Canadians, everyone to paddle; noting that part of the Canoe Club's mandate is to provide opportunities to paddle for as many people as possible; further noting that in 2005, our last full year of operation on the Thames, they had around 2,500 members, but this is number that is dwarfed by the number of people that paddle on the Thames that were not members; indicating that access to the River has always been free, this is and always has been about Londoners, we need a solution that all local communities will have had their say on, of local solution; further indicating that some are saying that the Thames will somehow become clean and clear if this Springbank Dam is decommissioned; noting that close study of the information available will show that the Dam is not the source of the problems and removing it will not make a difference to the water quality, it is magical simplistic thinking to believe otherwise; expressing that he believes that an environmental assessment of the River will show that the problems are not simple ones, but he believes it will help to point the way to the improved water quality that he thinks that they all desire; further indicating that Londoners have been paddling on the Thames River for nearly 150 years, he would ask Council to please not be responsible for ending such a tradition, let's help make London a stronger community by ensuring opportunities for all of us to be healthier and to enjoy the activities that we love.
- M. Recker, 1460 Norman Avenue – indicating that he has listened to all the pros and cons about doing the various things and nobody has really come up with a solution, they talk about the problem, but he will give a different perspective; expressing that the different perspective is the elevation of the Thames River throughout its watercourse, at the moment the lower end at the west end of the City, the elevation is about 720 ft. and at Fanshawe it is about 820 ft., so there is about 100 ft. drop across the City; noting that if there was a placement of groins that would concentrate the water into a central channel, that would only be during the summertime or during low water, you would always have free flowing water; noting that the use of groins is a widely accepted means of increasing the depth of the River in order to concentrate the water; further noting that at the present time the water in the summertime is ankle deep, at the lower level points, if you reduce the width of the River by the use of groins, which would be in placement only or be visible during periods of low water, during periods of high water they would be just a ripple in the water, but you would concentrate the water so that there would be a continuous flow; adding that with all the things that are being proposed here and being said is that you would have a water system that could be navigated by canoes or by small boats from the lower branch of the Thames, and from the lower end of the Thames all the way up to Fanshawe; further expressing that the coves on Springbank Drive is really a result of a

groin or a small dam that is underneath the bridge which holds the water back so that the water area there is artificial water, that could exist all the way up the Thames to Fanshawe Dam; indicating that the Coves, nothing grows in it except for things that have happened in the past, but at least the water is there to look at and you can canoe if you want to, the east one is not that bad but the west one is just a little bit on the toxic side, however, that is what happens; indicating that the material to create groins, which are really a shoal of stones that could be taken from the base of the river, in the past things were much simpler than they are now, he doesn't know if you can take the stones out of the river and relocate them, however in the past that how we did things, things happened much quicker but perhaps we didn't do them right; adding that as a result of this you would have these artificial lakes, a series of artificial lakes from the west end of the Thames all the way up to Fanshawe Lake, you wouldn't have to do the thing all at one time but you could over a period of time increase this to make it happen so that you could canoe on it or do whatever you wanted to do on it; indicating that illustrations of groins is the Mississippi River, he has a great deal of experience at Cape Jordan, Missouri which is the middle of Missouri on the Mississippi and there the river is 5 miles wide, but the water is concentrated down into the centre core so that they maintain a one depth of 9 ft. which the barges go up and down, take the grain from the upper branches of the Mississippi, even from Canada down to New Orleans; the other illustration is of the Detroit River where these groins are below the surface of the water and they maintain the depth of the Detroit River in order that the ocean freighters can go up and down; noting that the St. Clair may drain out but with the groins it maintains the water in order that there is a 27ft channel; further adding that another river that we have in the area is the Grand River, the Grand River has a series of low level dams with locks in which in the past the barges would go up and down the Grand River from Lake Erie to Brantford in order to move merchandise down, the dam locks do not work anymore but it does provide boating, dining, trailer parks – the Grand River is much more utilized than what the Thames River is; expressing that if there were groins to raise the water level in the areas it would be possible to canoe or take a boat from Fanshawe all the way to the Lake St. Claire; in the past they use to ship merchandise down the Thames, this is a long time past, as a way of illustration, there was a fire in Detroit in 1805, which burnt the whole town out and the material for rebuilding came from Dorchester, the timber was cut in Dorchester and made into boards and floated it down, there was active boating from Delaware to Lake St. Claire; lastly, if there were groins narrowing the channel down during periods of low flow, everybody, all our canoers could still go on the river anytime, the Dam wouldn't have to be in it would always be there and it would always be the depth that you wanted it to be, if it was knee deep that would be fine, if it was waist deep, it is just a matter of placing the groins, restricting the area in order to create these artificial lakes above the groins; indicating that it would provide areas for the fish to spawn without getting flushed out; he leaves this for the Council consideration.

- E. Hendriks, 245 Eglinton Avenue, Toronto, Vice President, WWF Canada – indicating that WWF is Canada's largest conservation organization, with active support of more than 150,000 Canadians, and they connect the power of a strong global network of on the ground conservation effort across Canada, taking a science based approach to community conservation and specie issues; further indicating that their vision is to see all waters in good health, given the attendance and interest in the issue, she thinks that they all believe in the same goal, a healthy river and a vibrant community, and they believe they can work together to find the best solution; noting that after reviewing all aspects of the issue for WWF, the science is clear that in this situation putting the Dam back in use would exacerbate the rivers poor environmental health, Londoners have enjoyed the Thames River in its more natural state for nearly a decade, the doors of the Springbank Dam have been left open and the water left to flow freely in this section since 2006, in that time the people and the wildlife have benefited as the river's natural processes begin to restore it; indicating that what is in front of us is an opportunity to let nature thrive with the community, and this is how they must begin to address the issue; noting that WWF Canada's recommendation is full decommission of the Dam, this option will result in the biggest benefit to the River, the aquatic community and the communities that rely on it, as well, it should trigger an Environmental Assessment in isolation of what else is occurring on the River, ensuring adequate attention is paid to the area to evaluate the benefit and cost and provide most importantly public participation in the review process; expressing that they are confident that a full and proper environmental assessment will support the Dam being fully removed, let the water to continue to flow freely in this section of the River so people and wildlife can enjoy the benefit of a healthier Thames River; expressing that the WWF is involved in this issue because from its research in watershed health, their evaluation of the northern Lake Erie Watershed results show the overall health as fair, however, as mentioned already tonight, water quality scores for phosphorous in and around the Dam are poor, specific phosphorous levels exceeding water quality guidelines in more than 70% of water samples taken; further expressing that harmful alga blooms are a potential risk to human health and aquatic health, posing a risk to drinking water supplies, quality

of life and economic vitality; indicating that what they know is that this Dam exasperates the environmental conditions, and when the Dam is in operation the reservoirs will result in increased water temperatures, increase in excessive algae growth, concentrations of e-coli, phosphorous and sediment and creates a harmful cycle of oxygen depletion; further noting that the health of the Thames River has wider impact beyond London and should be considered in the broader watershed and political context; further indicating that the WWF recently participated in the evaluation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Working Group recommendations for phosphorous targets for Lake Erie; in the newly adopted Bi-National Phosphorous Targets, the Thames River is named by a panel of international experts as a priority watershed for phosphorous reductions due to its high contribution to Lake Erie; further indication that the Thames is also named as an area of concern local Cyanobacteria blooms; the western basin of Lake Erie collaborative agreement signed in 2015 commits the Province of Ontario and States of Ohio and Michigan to take action to reduce phosphorous loading into the western basin of Lake Erie; adding that a river in poor health has consequences for connected waters downstream and makes it more difficult to fulfil international commitments to reduce the phosphorous that flowed into Lake Erie; lastly, the WWF work here they know that the decommissioning of the Springbank Dam can have a positive impact to the overall health of Lake Erie if the right solution is taken; finally, let's not accept an acerbated water system that is already degraded, the City report highlights that there are eight identified species risks found in the area of Springbank Dam; also noting that this is a huge opportunity to protect these species at risk, remove barriers to fish migration and improve degraded habitat; natural flow through this section of the River allows habitats to flex and change with the seasons, more naturalized temperatures and reduces the risk of excessive algae growth, native plants can flourish and previously flooded areas to increase the stability of the riverbanks and promote turtle nesting; the WWF urges the City to take this as an opportunity to invest in our natural infrastructure and enhance what a healthy functioning river can bring to the community.

- M. Bloxam, 68 Albion Street, Chair, Advisory Committee on the Environment – advising that due to lack of quorum at the last Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) meeting, the written report on the agenda was not approved, however the ACE Sub-Committee put it together and are fully behind it, and that the report will be discussed more fully at the ACE April meeting; expressing the comments as per the submission dated February 26, 2016.
- Judy Carter, 98 Chesley Ave – advised she attended the Back to the River meeting and advocated hard for the dam, but since then after listening at the meeting to a first nations gentleman and following up with some reading now doesn't want to fix the dam; stating she wants to leave it, possibly follow Bill Armstrong's lead and put a bridge across it, but other than that no intrusion into the water as the natural life is important.
- Debbie Park, 1288 Halls Mill Place – indicating she is 4<sup>th</sup> generation to grow up beside the Thames River in London, Ontario; stating she grew up in the only house located directly downstream from the dam on the Byron side of the river; suggesting that most of the discussion has been about Springbank dam and dealt with the river from the dam to the forks but not much has been said about the effects of the river downstream from Springbank Park; stating that she feels that she is able to speak with over 50 years of personal experience about the river downstream from the dam; suggesting that it is an equally important and much larger portion of the river; stating she has lived beside the river while the dam was operational and since the dam was damaged; advising she has boated on the river both above and below the dam before and post operational dam; wishing to share what she has witnessed downstream when the dam was raised; indicating that the river has a natural level that goes up and down when it rains, during drought and during the spring runoff; stating that when the dam was raised the water level suddenly dropped well below its natural level; suggesting that every May when the dam was raised she would see small fish, tadpoles and other aquatic species stranded in puddles among the rocks; suggesting they would ultimately die as a direct result of the dam being raised; frog and fish eggs attached to vegetation in the shallow waters along the river's edge became exposed and destroyed; stating that anyone who kayaks or canoes the river west of the dam knows there are lots of rapids due to the rocks; there are many areas of sand, gravel and rocks along the edge of the river and ultimately thousands of fish and aquatic creatures would get stuck and die in these rocky areas when the dam was raised; suggesting that it's a huge environmental issue that needs to be addressed and one she witnessed for 18 years; requesting that if London City Council members feel that there is a need for the dam to be fixed and operational she would encourage that before that Council insist that an EA impact study is done and would include addressing the effect on the fish and other aquatic species downstream from Springbank Park.
- W. Kinghorn, 522 Princess Avenue, President Urban League – indicating that the decision of what to do with the dam directly affects many individual communities within the city and thousands of citizens more generally; stating that the league has gone to considerable

effort to educate itself and our membership on this issue; stating that they held 2 separate events on this topic, first a Pints and Politics open discussion at Winks, and later a panel discussion held at their regular Urban League meeting at Grosvenor Lodge; indicating that they listened carefully to the compelling arguments from many perspectives both expert and citizen; stating that the Pints and Politics event was an open forum and the topic was well attended; advising that the panel discussion was more focussed and educational, hearing presentations from C. Tasker, B. Callow, R. Huber and G. Henry, most of whom you've heard from this evening; advising that he won't reiterate their feelings but stated that they are all great voices and passionate in their beliefs; stating that after listening to the expert panelists and considering the opinions of our general membership and other interested citizens the Urban League of London encourages City Council not to fix the dam; suggesting that an undammed river is a healthier river; indicating that not only is the water quality improved by a free flowing river but so too is the natural habitat; indicating that this must be our primary concern; stating that pitting ecology against recreation is a false dichotomy and is unhelpful; indicating that they believe that a free flowing healthy river is as important as a space of recreation for thousands of Londoners who enjoy walking, running, bicycling, canoeing, kayaking picnicking and more; indicating he won't repeat the scientific arguments already heard; and finally as far as the EA the league didn't consider this as part of their exploration so can't comment extensively on this except to urge caution; suggesting that if the dam and back to the river are handled together there is a risk that the polarization of the dam issue will spill over to back to the river; suggesting that this combination is seen by some as political; indicating that a specific EA for the dam or perhaps even a decision to leave the dam as is could be our best way forward.

- F. Barbetti, Fonthill, Niagara Peninsula, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (Zone J SW Ontario) – advising that he sits on the Lake Erie Committee representing Lake St. Clair; wanting to mention a few points based on the misinformation comments with regards to the blue green algae and the Bi-National Agreement; suggesting that some of these things have been studied almost to death; stating that genetically the blue green algae had been tied to the Thames River as many have read in the report from the US EPA who can still afford to do some of this testing; stating that from the standpoint of the role of the Thames River they are supportive of the local representation and inclined to support the decommissioning of the dam and have been from the first go around; reiterating to not throw good money after a bad cause; stating that with deference to some of the comments that have been made, the Bi-National International Agreement that has been mentioned, has a 40% reduction in P; indicating that the phosphorous is definitely affecting Lake Sinclair, Lake Erie and the south western part of the Lake Erie Fishery; urging the members to read the attached letter from the Ontario Commercial Fisheries' Association, who are not soft environmentalists but rather an industry who relies on the productivity of the rivers like the Grand and the Thames.
- A. Valastro, 133 John Street, Unit 1 – stating that she lives upstream from the dam near Harris Park and grew up here; advising that the river doesn't smell anymore; stating that when she was a kid the river stunk; indicating that when the water was let out all the garbage that got stuck because the flow of the river slowed, was exposed; suggesting that the canoeists and rowers wouldn't see this as they were gone home by then; stating that the neighbourhood had to deal with the heavy objects stuck in the water and it was very depressing; stating that as kids they would pick up what garbage they could, and that she is not saying there isn't tires or heavy things in the river now by the park; indicating that it is nothing like when she was a kid; suggesting that this part of the river in her neighbourhood would be flooded if the dam was fixed; advising she walks it all the time as her way of distressing; suggesting that the river has just come alive; advising that last month she seen a bald eagle for the first time as well as beavers; advising that she resents being told that family values and the only way to engage in nature is by canoeing, rowing or dragon boat racing; suggesting that there are more people there now than she can remember, sometimes to her irritant; stating that those peaceful walks are kind of bumpy now, bumping shoulders with people; indicating that as a child she barely saw these hordes of canoers and kayakers, in fact she sees more now than there ever was when she was young person; suggesting that she feels people are here to express themselves about how they want the river to be; stating that she thinks in the media somehow you want to tie this EA to the back to the river project; stating that she sees this as an attempt to get something through the back door that you can't get by going through the front door; stating she agrees that this a way to purposely muddy the issues; suggesting that she thinks that the hope is if you tie the projects together that somehow you will glorify the project at the fork and link it to the necessity to dam the river; stating that she doesn't like that and finds it misleading, suggesting you need to separate it as has been said before; advising that she doesn't care if the dam is decommissioned or left as is, she just doesn't want it dammed; states that she feels it harms the river and has seen it harm the river; stating that she has even seen mollusk there which are on the verge of extinction and over the past several years has seen mollusks; advising that mollusks are susceptible to toxins

as they are sediment creatures and are the first indicator that the water is getting better; stating that she doesn't want it harmed in any way and doesn't want it harmed for canoers or rowers just because they romanticize something that they did way back when; stating she just wants to move forward and wants a clean environment; indicating that there are too many people already down there; stating that she doesn't think there is any issues with people not engaging there are more people engaging than she has ever noticed in the whole time I've lived there; stating that it doesn't stink.

- D. Doroshenko, 374 Fouston Road, Byron, Co-Chair Byron Community Organization (BCO) – advising he is here to present on behalf of the (BCO) an organization that has been in existence for 3 plus years and membership includes new persons, persons of all ages, persons retiring to Byron, persons returning to Byron, persons who have only lived in Bryon and third and fourth generation; stating that the BCO is a member of the umbrella group the Urban League, advising that at their February meeting prior to the Urban League meeting they had a discussion about the dam because it's in their backyard, advising that it is interesting that the membership is very knowledgeable on and make use of a lot of different areas within our community because it truly is a village; stating that they asked what they would like to see and took a vote to decommission the dam, leave it the way it is or bring it back to full activity so it's fully functioning, and it was unanimous to leave it the way it was don't change it; advising that this was before any environmental assessment that we weren't privy to; suggesting that there are other areas that need to be looked at; advising that a second annual open house was held at the Byron Library later in the month and was attended by a broader range of people not necessarily members, we asked this group the same thing looking for their opinion, decommission, let it be the way it is or fully active; advising that the results were 1/3 to decommission, 1/3 to leave the way it is and the final 1/3 was split with needing to know more information or putting it back to fully operational; suggesting that after 2 different surveys and the feedback received it provided them with an opportunity to make our position as a group to leave it the way it is; stating that on a personal note he was one of the people who grew up moved away and then moved back to the community about 6 or 7 years ago; indicating that when he was younger he used full use of the river and Springbank Park; including canoeing; indicating that he never felt a detriment to the time of the year to put the canoe in the water because you go to the water it doesn't come to you; suggesting that is the case with all canoe; advising that today he went down to look at it to refresh his memory to what is going on there and there is some high water right now due to the time of year; indicating that is a fully functioning area that anyone can canoe in; reiterating that is his personal opinion; advising that the BCO would prefer to see it the way it is, don't touch it.
- C. Johnson, 1871 Riley Walk – advising he is a canoeist and angler; stating that he does support decommissioning the Springbank dam; stating that he does enjoy going out on the lakes going up north and camping but you can easily use the river; stating that he uses it all the time from St. Mary's to Delaware and from Putnam to the City Centre; there is a lot more use using it this way and we can use it with access points and creating a river system with this back to the river and not just limiting ourselves to one area.
- V. VanLinden, 431 Ridgewood Crescent – stating that she doesn't want to be argumentative; indicating that she knows there are people who have strong views about wanting to canoe and paddle and the things that were said the happy memories; stating that she values all of that, but is certainly in favour of no dam; suggesting that we do have to choose, we can have a dam or not have a dam, there is no middle ground, no way to please everyone, we have to make a choice; advising that she wants to say something about this and appreciates the word Ms. Valastro used "romanticising" of how people relate to the river; stating that she grew up by a river too, not this one; stating she grew up on a small farm on the Sydenham river and it took her 30 seconds to walk from her front door to the small, little, modest river; stating that the river was very important to her and was a big part of her growing up; stating that we needed no organized activities; indicating that this idea that the only way to enjoy the natural world is to manipulate it and bend it to our will and force it into shapes so it will serve us; stating that there is something really essentially wrong with this; advising that if she sounds strident it's because she thinks that this is at the heart of so much that is desperately wrong with how we relate to the natural world; advising that she isn't great with science and what she does know about the natural world is from being a kid growing up in the country, but more recently from being someone who advocates on behalf of wildlife and experiencing the natural world with the view of how the natural world is the habitat and home that belongs to them; stating that what she sees over and over again is that people say they love the natural world, it renews them, it refreshes them, but they never accept it the way it simply is; suggesting that this river is not our river it is the river, it is a river; suggesting that it has an ebb and flow that is part of nature and sometimes it's pretty and sometimes it's not, sometimes it has muddy river banks; indicating that the idea that a river is always supposed to be a certain way, in a certain state of being to serve the desires of people, that is a really wrong idea, that is an idea about the natural world that she believes has led to all the problems we have today;

suggesting we have enormous problems today based on this very tortured and tormented view that human beings have about what our relationship to nature should be; requesting that whenever you have a chance to leave nature alone, that's the right choice, leave nature alone because we don't know everything about nature we are not it; suggesting that we can have these Environmental Assessments but EA's can only test for the things that we know now, we don't know everything about nature we are not that smart yet, we are learning more and more things about the interchange and the interplay of all of the things that make up the natural world; stating that she wishes we could come to this with some kind of humility; suggesting that another things is this idea that our recreation and our desire to please ourselves, not that those are bad things, again she apologizes if her tone is strident; but it is not the role of the natural world to bend to provide us that, we are human beings, we are the most powerful species on this planet, and if we can't figure out how to keep ourselves and our kids happy on a Sunday afternoon than what are these great big brains for; requesting that we leave this river to all the many things, and beings and creatures and species that desperately need it for its very existence; indicating that she doesn't think that we know at all every being or every important part of the ecosystem that relies on the river; stating that she wants to say one more thing that hasn't come up; indicating this means more to her than anything and apologizing for being emotional; suggesting that we can't financially afford this dam or Back to the River; stating that she knows this because she read again today an article in the paper, something she already knew, that we aren't allocating money to our poor citizens, we are not fixing the problem of mentally ill persons living in flop houses, we call them unmanaged group homes but they are flop houses, we are not building supportive housing; indicating that from the article today, quoting the author "for some reason with mental illness we simply cannot see people the same way as someone who has a terrible physical illness, these people are somehow always left behind"; stating that for the person who brought up family values, we are not a very good family here in London; suggesting that when we got a windfall from London Hydro we took 5 million dollars and parked it into a fund so that we can decorate the river bank and maybe have little parties there; indicating that we did not take that money and park it into a fund and say we are going to get building because we know that we have people who live in abject absolute misery and they are they are also our family; stating that she feels really upset about this because for the past year she has been just engaged trying to help someone who fits into these categories but won't tell the whole story, but it's a really sad story; suggesting that it's a story that plays out all across town; indicating that the programs we have don't work; indicating that there are people who have really complex problems and that the only thing that works is supported housing; suggesting that they can't get themselves to the housing stability bank and they can't figure out how to access that program; stating that she's been trying to do this for an individual but there are a whole bunch of complex reasons for why those programs don't fit; stating that the person will be evicted in a few days, after a lot of hard work and he is going to be out in the wind; stating that she is ashamed for all of us that this is happening; indicating that she has read about the persons still living in flop houses, nicely referred to as unregulated group homes; suggesting that we don't have big meetings like this to come and talk about that; indicating that we haven't brought those people, who can't advocate for themselves; suggesting they haven't come to tell you stories about what their lives are like; suggesting that when they relate to the park it's likely because they are sleeping in the park; indicating that if for no other reason than that alone we can't afford this, we can afford Back to; the River, we can't afford this dam; indicating that our most wounded citizens need this money; stating she doesn't know why we can't have the same kind of concerns for that; stating that if she has to beg or plead; questioning what would it take for us to care more about that then we do about row boats.

- Ryan Smard, 1304 King Street – indicating that he was at the boat show here in London, Ontario just a few weeks ago; stating that they had a petition at one of the booths there; stating that he could not believe the amount of positive and just feedback he received from normal citizens from the city and from outside of the city, Chatham and other areas; indicating that he didn't have to say nothing just "do you want to sign our petition to de" ... "yeah, where's the pen?", just right off the bat, like these people, they want the dam gone; stating that these weren't fishermen, they weren't paddlers, they were just people that live, walk, bike, you name it, just normal citizens that were just wanting to sign this petition; indicating he had a line-up going around the corner of people waiting to sign this petition and that it was a pretty awesome sight; stating that personally he would like to see the dam decommissioned; stating that he was walking along the Thames River this past Sunday, hopefully the last snow covered day of the year, and it was awesome; indicating he seen beavers, geese, ducks; suggesting he didn't even know he was along the Thames River anymore, he thought he was in some mountain top somewhere, it was unbelievable, he was on this beautiful trail and just seen so much wildlife going through this area and it just blew him away to think that this dam, that this river could be just blocked and this beautiful wildlife could be suffocated; stating that he has a four year old and a two year

old and they're beautiful boys and he takes them fishing, biking walking along the Thames River almost on a weekly basis; stating that he doesn't want to have to tell them in the future, "yeah, sorry son, these fish are dead because of this or these animals are dead because of this."; stating that he wants them to learn and for their grandchildren and their children and their children to have a river that flows forever; stating that there's some really great speeches here today; requesting that he hopes you listen to all of them because the dam needs to go.

- Owen Hubber, 2202 Coronation Drive – stating that every summer he goes canoeing on the river and he fishes there all the time and it's not hard to canoe through the river; requesting that we get rid of the dam.
- B. Wells, 408-190 Cherry Hill Circle – stating that he has delivered many e-mails over the past year; stating that he's against keeping or repairing the dam; indicating that he has probably spent 2000 hours researching this; indicating that the evidence is overwhelming and the health of the river is number one; suggesting that you can still canoe and kayak on the river; suggesting that it's a myth that you can't canoe or kayak on the river; requesting that you read the communication on page 208.
- J. Beaton, 239 Bradwell Chase – stating that he has a list of some of the comments the Thames River Anglers left on their petition; indicating that these comments were shared with Council and the public and they have all been authorized by the people who have made the comments; rivers benefit from staying in a natural state as evidenced by the proliferation of bird habitats, fish, natural water levels and vegetation; when we introduce artificial means of controlling water levels the natural environment suffers and ceases to be as fertile and prolific; I have witnessed the proliferation of wildlife especially a broad variety of birds, ducks, etc. in the Thames River alongside Springbank park; lets keep the Thames to the way nature intended it to be and lets not oppose any artificial constructs on a free flowing river; I've lived with this dam a short distance from my home for 40 nearly years, I also use the river for fishing, canoeing, wildlife watching and other family recreation; I've seen the changes since the dam became inoperable, it smells better, looks better; wildlife and fish are returning to places they could not occupy when the dam functioned; there's no longer a summer cess pool at Springbank park; there is no logical reason as to why this dam should be allowed to exist; the canoe club has plenty of options without bringing this ugly expensive dam back its time to decommission this stinking eye sore on the environment; as an avid Boater, canoe and kayak I think this part of the river is very enjoyable and deep enough without the dam; the fishing and wildlife quality is vastly improved in its natural state; let's use any recovered monies to decommission the dam and eliminate future problems and costs that the tax payers will have to pay; please take the environmental effects that this dam will ruin into consideration; do we really need to flood an area if we are canoeing when you can canoe all the way down the Thames River as it is; by rebuilding this dam we will be affecting wild plants and animals that have begun to come back and thrive in this beautiful ecosystem; this dam when in place creates toxic impoundment that is detrimental to the river, its inhabitants and surrounding environment; it is not a flood control structure it was built for recreational use only so are we willing to sacrifice the health of our heritage river for a select few when we have a world located at Fanshawe Lake; the estimated cost to decommission the dam was estimated at \$1 M; looks pretty good now that we have spent \$6.8 M and that number will double by the time the City of London is done and what guarantee is there that it will work; in its current state the Thames River flows better looks better, and smells cleaner, in addition fish have return to their traditional habitats this in turn draws numerous bird species too such as bald eagles; I also enjoy the fact that I can now drive minutes from my house and enjoy catching numerous white mouth bass, small mouth bass and northern pike; mother nature is healing herself so please let her continue this journey by keeping this dam from returning; it is trusted that when the City of London has done their due diligence they will make the right decision to take immediate action and remove the Springbank dam; it doesn't appear prudent to keep the dam based on its ineffectiveness and excess costs and negative environmental affects, coupled with this we must protect the ecosystem and ensure facilitation, fish migration and spawning; it would appear the pros for removing the dam far outweigh the reasons to keep it; I trust that the city, Mayor Brown and our new Councillors will the right decision.
- Randy Bailey, 21 Calidar Place – advising that he was going to provide some comments as well, off of the petition; the health of the river and the environment is far more important than canoeing on the river in the summer; it's one of the main reasons London has so many offspring nesting along the Thames River due to the health of the river and improved fishing for the offspring; the river is only healthy if left unbothered by interference of people; get rid of the dam; dams cause disease, habitat loss and are a barrier to fish migration and also create dangers to pets and humans; as a frequent, life-long user of the Thames River watershed, walking and boating and fishing, I am very pleased with the state of the river as we see it now; a river running naturally is always a healthy environment; the improvements in the apparent health of the river from when it was dammed up annually



are amazing in just a short time; having read the studies posted on the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority website, I cannot see how anyone could justify damming up the river at Springbank again; so much to gain from decommissioning the dam, so much to lose by not doing so; there's an excellent impoundment at Fanshawe Lake for recreational boating, no need for a dam; I would like to see this dam decommissioned so that my sons can grow up seeing and smelling the river the way it should be instead of the cesspool I grew up with; it looks better than it ever has; I have been involved in the science issues of the dam on the health of river systems and believe that dams that serve no useful purpose; should be removed for the public's good and for the good of the river and lake; it's time to get our collective heads out of the last century; thinking that we can harness nature without consequence has consistently only to degrade the long term quality of our own lives; do we really want this to be our legacy as a community?; the new City Council was voted in with the hope that they were thoughtful, physically responsible decision makers, unlike the last lot, the fact that they are even considering spending millions of dollars on an environmentally irresponsible, non-critical structure that has already gone several million dollars over-budget, your tax dollars by the way, indicates that not much has changed at the helm of City Hall; return our heritage river and natural element back to the way nature created it for the sake of all; we have to start correcting the mess we caused to our waterways; the next generations need this too; quit sacrificing the health of the ecosystem, environment and river for a select few users; decommission this white elephant once and for all; we have a world class training facility located at Fanshawe Lake so the select few should use it; since when can you wreck the environment for your own personal satisfaction?; the river has naturalized itself as the dam is out of commission, the river looks much better, cleaner; why maintain something that serves no purpose?; remove the dam; as a scientist and avid angler, the benefits to removal of impediments such as Springbank Dam to migratory fish is clear, quality is much better and I've never seen this section of river above the dam look healthier than it is right now; my children and I regularly fish and wade in the river and park area and have caught a wide variety of species, bass, pike, walleye, suckers and they all seem to be flourishing in this area; when the dam was in place, the only fish we thought to fish for in the stagnant head pond were carp; environmentally conscious governments around the world are removing dams that do not provide a benefit such as flood control or hydro-electric power because these dams have significant environmental impacts; please make the right choice, stop wasting taxpayer money on a dam that clearly is not necessary; return this heritage river to its natural state; since the dam has failed, it has become clear that it is helpful to lose the dam from an environmental perspective than repair it from any other perspective; I have witnessed, personally, the improved water clarity, decreased odour and improved fishing along the Thames River upstream of Springbank since it has been left open; Mayor Brown's promise to finally fix the dam was dubious when he was campaigning, he needs to be reminded of the social, political and environmental costs; London has other resources, Fanshawe Lake for one, let the river flow healthy and stay healthy; the renewed effort to repair the Springbank dam is based upon an antiquated notion of how we interact with our environment; we now recognize the dam prevents the migration of fish, prevents flushing of pollutants and creates a dangerous build-up of silt; the immediate proximity of the Greenway Pollution Plant further compounds the dangerous effects of the dam, E-coli bacteria was present in dangerous levels prior to the damage to the gate; I consider the damage to the gate fortuitous, as it allowed the river to flow free and allowed plants and wildlife the ability to demonstrate their ability to recover; this dam does not provide anything critical to our community such as hydro power, irrigation, flood control or water storage; in the long run, putting it back into service can only cause harm to the river, ecosystem and negatively impact tax rates; time to be ecologically responsible like many other communities and decommission this relic from the past where people don't know any better.

- Sunny James, long time Londoner – indicating he is scientist and his specialty is the free solar energy we get every day which is very useful, free; wanting to compliment, first of all I'd like to remind the fine Londoners of a wonderful woman that on this International Day of the Woman is, couldn't have been more perfect timing for this wonderful evening, a Londoner by the name of Ms. Frankie Tellsie; asking if anybody recognize that name?; indicating that she was one of the finest scientists in the world and that he believes she was 101 years old when she passed away a few months ago; indicating that she saved this world from the plight of a thing called thalidomide; stating that she said stick by your guns and that's what she did and that's what we have to do as citizens of this city, stick by our guns; indicating that she was awarded the highest medal from President Kennedy for her fine work when she stuck by her guns and said you pharmaceutical companies that made about \$500 billion about five years ago did not have the right science, as I'm a scientist, to make sure that we didn't let thalidomide that was proved by Health Canada. Our Health Ministers now our Environment Minister, anyways. Just to commemorate that fine woman's work. She just passed away in London and was living in London at the time.

Our world is evolving. This fine book *The Evolving Earth*, the world of science, we need more young scientists and we need to encourage them in our country and in our world as I do with solar energy and we need to make sure that we look after our planet and use the scientific minds that we have in this country and world to do so. We need water to drink, we're destroying our planet. A fine Native gentleman the other day informed our Prime Minister, he said our mother is sick. You might recall that statement. Well our mother is sick. If we don't do something quickly, Mr. Einstein, he was a fine man and he was a very bright guy, he said if we don't have the birds and the bees, we're done in four years folks. Four years. We're killing the bees with Monsanto, we're killing the birds with windows. If I had the change I'd like to bring the movie from Toronto the other night, Tuesday night. It's from Toronto, it's a movie about the birds and it's a fantastic movie, I'd like to bring it to Canada. But anyway, I'm getting off-topic here. If we could just save our river, do something with the science and my address is [foodsharecanada@gmail.com](mailto:foodsharecanada@gmail.com), you can reach me there. Gibbons Park, I was, a few years ago Gibbons Park has a lush lawn along the river and I enjoyed it very much in the summertime and I saved the bank with a bottle and the guys came down and said that I did better than the City Hall guys, the engineers at City Hall. Then they put all those bricks and steel cages around the area, that beautiful pieces of grass is gone. I was the one that the City couldn't figure out how come the children weren't at Storybook Gardens. I used to live in Byron, thanks for the memories tonight, go down and get on the train, blow the horn and was on the train. The children came back. We need to think about the economy. We don't have the money to spend for these luxurious projects. But anyway I worked for about 2 weeks before Mother's Day, gathered up all the stuff that students had thrown out, the quality things the students had thrown out into the trash and gathered that up and put it on to the bridge, this was just after it was announced that The Back to the River project was coming to London. So, I worked on it throughout the week and got the stuff that the students had thrown out in the trash and put it in the village under the bridge at Oxford Street at the river, just east of Tim Horton's, sorry just west of Tim Horton's on Talbot Street, where trucks run under the bridge. I built a little village there and set up to have that as my Back to the River project. On Mother's Day we had a nice meal and I had a couple join me and they enjoyed the evening and I had that to commemorate my lost mother. Well, the next morning, Monday, as Mayor Brown was on the radio, telling us that was the heart of our city, the river, come back to the river, many police officers came down Mr. Pontiff, the man who tried to kill me a few days before, he came down and had the city workers come down that were on strike and loaded up two trucks with my village that I had set up, I had tables, chairs, cutlery, glassware, a welcome mat, a fire pit, sleeping accommodations, even a coat rack. They loaded everything I had worked a week for the Back to the River project, put it on two trucks, smashed it all and threw it in the dump. If you get a change, go to Google and put in big guns at Victoria Park, big guns at Victoria Park in Google, you'll find my story there. I wanted to compete for that job and I hope I still can, folks. We awarded it to a company from Denver, Colorado, I don't know if it, I don't think they're a part of Canada. If you get a chance go to my Sunny news, where I'm in the news business and I'll make sure you get this job done. Sunny news wire at Google. And with your help the colours are purple and jade, which you can see on my coat here and my scarf, purple and jade stands for peace and justice. With your help I'll be your next Prime Minister, thank you so much.

- P. Holme, 393 Edgeworth Ave – advising that he was going to provide some comments as well, off of the petition; it's a shame good money was spent to repair this dam in 2008; that even more so the repairs were ineffective and need more expenditures; that many old dams like this have outlived their purpose and usefulness and have become costly and serious environmental deterrents; it's time to let the river run; I believe this is an ecologically issue, I believe that the city can leverage a natural river for tourism with the generally forward thinking and highly informed staff that City Hall manoeuvres them by the more supplicated and responsible approach to the dam issue; leaving the Springbank Dam decommissioned has proven to be better for the biodiversity of the water shed and the surrounding area proven by the number of independent studies; not having the dam work restores the river to its natural state as it passes through the forest city on its way to Lake St. Clair which it can only be a good thing; I support the removal of the dam in order to protect the valuable ecology of the Thames River; we need to ensure that the health of the waterways and the species that call it home are protected; removal of the dam is an excellent opportunity to make London a destination for Ecotourism and try not to exploit the river at the expense of our health, mental health of the city and region; the river and Springbank have never looked or smelled better than it does today with the dam broken; 30 years ago I would have not dipped a toe in it, today, I'd swim in it and not worry about carrying stink around with me all day; I definitely agree the water quality above and below the dam is definitely much clearer; we haven't fished the Thames for over 30 years and I can see the difference; the river was never this good when I grew up living off Riverside Drive area west of what was once Hutton Side Road; in the 60's the rivers smelled like an open cess pool all summer; fixing the dam would be detrimental to ecology life; why spend

money on something that is not a problem if people want to paddle or kayak they can go elsewhere; money from the lawsuit if won could go to restoring other places actually in need that would be beneficial for all involved; I live near the river and I can see how much better it is without the dam boaters can use Fanshawe Lake for recreation; we love walking along the river and seeing the ospreys nesting and soft shelled turtles basking on the rocks; protecting the ecosystem is far more valuable to us than having a dead river with boats on it; the river at Kilworth, Komoka, Delaware has never been more natural looking run clearer and no stagnation; the river is best left free flowing west of Fanshawe dam; other locations are available for paddling; recreation resource should be allocated to stop the pollution of the river from the storm water run-off and sewage; you can enjoy better canoeing without Springbank dam as a limited barrier canoeing to Killworth or Komoka is much better than being isolated only to the smelly, stagnant, unhealthy waters; remove the dam; do not build this reservoir it will be detrimental in far too many ways; the financial gains will be minimal in comparison to the outweigh; the river is healthier and the water cleaner without wasteful impediment; the City of London in effort to cooperate natural river live space in most of our parks what better cause than to naturalize our heritage river the Thames River.

- L. Smithers, 359 Riverside Drive – stating she has lived here since 1983 and has been here for the bad times and the good times; indicating that the 80's to the 90's were the worst and the last 10 to 15 years have been the best; suggesting that the city doesn't need to do the EA or the Back to the River; suggesting that the river is healthier now than ever was and will probably stay that way if the dams not fixed; suggesting that the money saved can be put towards other very important projects such as supporting the homeless, the combined sewer project; speaking about other reports regarding air pollution, congestion on the roads; suggesting that she doesn't want to say too much more except that she doesn't know how much money will be saved if you don't do the back to the river project or the ESA and you spend a million dollars to get rid of the dam; reiterating that she thinks that money would be better spent elsewhere not on these kind of projects that are being proposed for the forks.
- Stan Gibbs, 48 Parliament Crescent, President Western Ontario Fish and Game Club – commenting on something said earlier about numerous dams above London prohibiting the river from flowing; suggesting we have the chance to take a piece out to unplug the river and now we are looking at throwing a plug back into it; suggesting that it doesn't make a lot of sense when governments in Canada and the US are throwing money out to decommission dams that are non-essential; asking why we would even consider putting the dam back in.
- M. Mossa, 155 Thornton Ave – stating that he is not sure where to start as there has been a lot of stuff that he wanted to say that has been covered by others; stating that he would like to point out that he is curious as to why Back to the River and the dam have been intertwined specially for the EA that's being discussed; suggesting that you have before you the dam and what to do with the dam and that decision can be made without tying it into back to the river; indicating that he is hoping that's the case because as we heard before the Back to the River project should not be tied to preventing the flow of the river; stating that he owns property downtown 220 metres away from the forks of the Thames and has a vested interest on what happens down there and he also owns property downstream 32 meters from the riverbank which also holds the distinction of being the last privately non-government own property in the City of London; indicating that it sees the flow of the Thames outside of London before it leaves the City limits; reiterating his vested interest there; indicating that he would like to see the Back to the River, although he is not sure about the cost of it; stating that he is not in support of the dam that he is in support of letting the river flow; stating that he doesn't want his river sacrificed downstream for the benefit of the river upstream; reiterating that he wants to let the river flow; suggesting that it makes financial and environmental sense; suggesting it's not rocket science, you dam water it's going to get more polluted it's going to concentrate pollutants; reiterating that it is common sense if we are looking at it from environmentally point of view; suggesting this is not something that we should be looking at for recreational uses; indicating he has listened to everyone speak about point to have the dam for recreational purposes the canoe and rowing club and heard even some of those members have come forward and said not to fix the dam; pointing out that the river does not belong only to those that are east of Commissioners and Springbank; indicating that there are those of us that are further downstream who want to enjoy the river as well; pointing out there has to be respect for both those people and our neighbours downstream; reiterating that he wants to let the river flow.
- A. Kosh, 49 Glenroy Court, Western Ontario Fish and Game Club – stating that he would like to see the dam decommissioned; suggesting to the rowing and canoe clubs to investigate property and buildings at the Westminster Ponds by the hospital for the potential for a new clubhouse; indicating that they would have 3 good neighbour fishing clubs that would help volunteer as well as the hospital and fire department for safety and

restaurants including two Tim Horton's which you don't have at Wonderland Road; stating that he wasn't a member but used to canoe out of the canoe club there in the 70's and would participate in the canoe races when he was 10 years old; stating that whenever we tipped over the canoe we always ended up with ear infections; indicating that the water at the ponds is crystal clear and all natural.