

Emily Dance

Subject: FW: Flooding Emergency Preparedness

From: Douglas Dunlop <doug.dunlop@gmail.com>

Sent: March 3, 2022 12:48 PM

To: Emily Dance <edance@huronkinloss.com>

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Douglas Dunlop** <doug.dunlop@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, 3 Mar 2022 at 12:44

Subject: Flooding Emergency Preparedness

To: <info@huronkinloss.com>

Dear Huron-Kinloss Council,

Bruce Beach has experienced multiple flooding events which are directly attributable to the construction on the Bruce Beach Municipal Drain (BBMD) which was then exacerbated by the failure to take remedial action by both the Township of Huron-Kinloss (HK) and Headway Engineering. I understand that the Council believes that the BBMD project will correct the flooding in due course and we all just need to be patient and let the process finish. But the problems that are now occurring are not the same historical type of flooding that the project is designed to alleviate, but caused by a mismanagement and a failure of oversight of the BBMD project itself.

To help you better understand why I believe that, here are the events that occurred on Feb 22, 2022 that ended up turning Bruce Beach Rd. into a lake, flooding multiple properties and causing damage and loss. We will not even be able to know the extent of the damage until spring when we can gain full access to our properties again. This is the 5th flooding event that has occurred since the start of construction of the BBMD last fall, which was proposed as a solution to catastrophic flooding that was occurring about once every other year.

In the early morning hours of Feb, 22, 2022, before going to bed, I sent an email to Drainage Superintendent Collins notifying him that the forecast called for up to 20 mm of rain and asking him to:

To: <gcollins@huronkinloss.com> 22 Feb 2022, 00:47

Please monitor and be ready to respond in case of flooding from the Bruce Beach Municipal Drain Phase I. Up to 20mm of rain are forecast for today.

When I got up in the morning I had not heard back from Superintendent Collins and thought that I had better also forwarded my message to info@huronkinloss.com to make sure that the request was properly channeled in case Mr Collins was away.

By 3:00 pm I had still not heard back from HK or Mr. Collins, the runoff in the drain was very strong and nearing capacity. I wrote info@huronkinloss.com again:

To: info@huronkinloss.com 22 Feb 2022, 15:10

Please inform the Huron-Kinloss council that there has not been any HK staff out to monitor the situation today and I have not heard back from Grant Collins or any other HK staff. The rate of flow is increasing, the drain is at full flow capacity now, and it is still raining heavily. This lack of emergency response is unacceptable.

A short time later I heard back from Emily Dance: info@huronkinloss.com 22 Feb 2022, 15:34:

The Drainage Superintendent, the Director of Public Works and the Drainage Engineer and contractor are all aware of the current weather and are monitoring the situation."

All seemed well in-hand. Except, as we now know, it was not!

Just before 4:50 pm there was still no sign of any material response from HK, so I called the HK Emergency Hotline 1-866-299-5199 and reported a flooding emergency. I was told that Public Works would be immediately notified.

Finally, at 4:57 was the first arrival of any response from HK when Superintendent Collins arrived, alone with a rake, and attempted to free the drain grate of any debris. His efforts were futile and the water levels kept rising. Only heavy equipment would be able to remediate this level of flooding.

Finally at 6:57 Kempton Construction arrived at the BBMD site. A berm was constructed across the road to contain and direct the flooding and then the detention pond outlet was partially restricted and the flooding came under control at Bruce Beach Rd by about 8:30.

Just before the HK Council meeting was due to begin and I thought that the councillors deserved to be fully informed of the emergency situation for their council discussion, I emailed all of them individually and included pictures and video at 6:05 pm. That email should be attached to the Mar 7, 2022 meeting agenda by Clerk Dance and you all received it so I won't repeat it here.

As you all know there was no discussion of the emergency in the Feb 22 meeting and only a quick vote to approve the draft response to my earlier letter regarding a flooding event on Feb, 17, 2022, also caused by construction work on the Bruce Beach Municipal Drain. Councillor Jim Hanna did note later in the meeting about concerns raised by Bruce Beachers.

Councilor Jim Hanna

Just putting out to the public that the township is not ignoring a problem it is a serious problem down Bruce Beach and we are going to deal with it and there's going to be some mess and some mud and some trash along the way but once it gets all settled down it'll be better so try and be patient. Try and get some faith. I guess that's my diatribe for tonight and a comment.

These 5 flooding events go way beyond "some mess and some mud". We can all handle "some mess and mud", but 3 ft of water on Bruce Beach Rd. flowing up driveways and into residential buildings, multiple times, is not that. I tried to politely warn HK before both the Feb 17 and Feb 22 events to monitor and prepare for flooding events and both times no action was taken or it was taken only after flooding had already occurred and damage had been done. The lack of preparedness and lack of response, by HK staff, HK Council, Headway Engineering now borders on negligence and/or incompetence and action is needed immediately to remedy this failure of oversight.

Please see for yourselves the extent of the flooding in this link to a photo album with pictures and videos from just the [Feb 22 flooding event](#).

The questions the HK council still needs to address are:

1. What is the current state of Phase I completion and what are the key milestone dates from now until the end of April? I understand that Headway will address this on Mar 7, but if not then these questions remain unanswered. In particular:
 1. When will the detention pond be in full service to buffer the flow of runoff?

2. Can we still be confident that the system, as currently designed, is sufficient to handle a large rain event and why?
 3. Why is there overland water flowing down the ravine and how will this be prevented or at least minimized in the interim and long term. Any overland water flow will lead to erosion and drain blockages.
 4. Who is responsible for clear-cutting the ravine path for the drain pipe without any plan for run-off control being put in place. This was the direct cause of the Feb 17 flooding event.
 5. Who is responsible for the failure to install the flow control on the outlet of the detention pond? The high flow rate overwhelmed the downstream drainage system was the direct cause of the Feb 22, flood event.
2. What HK emergency plan is in place to monitor and control the proper flow of runoff in the Phase I system, clear blockages, and notify property owners when their properties are being threatened with flooding by this system?
 3. What is the fastest and most effective way to initiate HK's emergency response in the event of further flooding caused by the BBMD? Can we get a special hotline number? What equipment and resources are ready to respond?
 4. What are the procedures for property owners to notify HK about property damage, make claims for compensation and what are the deadlines for making such claims?

BTW, Rain and warm temperatures are forecast for this weekend Mar 5 & 6. Please be prepared for the potential of new flooding.

You have my permission to post this message as part of the HK council agenda. I also make the request that you distribute my message, photos and video to all of the council members prior to the Council meeting.

Regards,
Doug