

MGWA NEWS

April 2004

Since the last public meeting on the Hespeler West Subwatersheds Study (HWSS) at the Beehive Room, your standing committee has been working with representatives of City Council and staff. This newsletter is being published to bring our supporters up to date on our activities.

You may recall that in response to our suggestion, Cambridge Council established a Working Committee to review the specific areas of community concern. The members of this Committee include:

- ◆ Ward Councillor, Rick Cowsill (Chairman)
- ◆ Erich Ritzmann MGWA
- ◆ Charlene Schiedel MGWA
- ◆ John Vasiga MGWA
- ◆ Cathy Murphy MGWA
- ◆ Ron McKittrick, MGWA alternate
- ◆ Brian Cunningham small property owners
- ◆ Matt Pugliese small property alternate
- ◆ Ian Rawlings large property developers
- ◆ Ken Cornelisse Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)
- ◆ Tricia Rosa Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA)
- ◆ Chris Gosselin Regional Municipality of Waterloo (RMoW)
- ◆ Wendy Wright City of Cambridge Commissioner of Planning Services
- ◆ April Souwand City of Cambridge Senior Environmental Planner

The Working Committee meets the first and third Thursdays of the month and the MGWA Steering Committee meets the alternate Thursdays.

Summary of accomplishments thus far, are:

- ◆ Finalizing the mandate, legal requirements and operating rules for the Working Committee.
- ◆ Presentations by the Provincial Ministry of Natural Resources and the Grand River Conservation Authority regarding Provincially Significant Wetlands, Floodline Calculations, Regulated Areas and Ponds.
- ◆ Review of policies of the various organizations involved.
- ◆ Review of technologies involved.
- ◆ Agreement on the strengths and limitations of the technologies used.
- ◆ Agreement on alteration of several results of the Study.

Next steps are a presentation by the Region regarding Environmentally Sensitive Policy Areas and by the City on Protection of Natural Areas.

Review and discussion of the concerns of the community has occurred following each of the presentations and changes have been made regarding the results of the Study. Some field visits are planned mid-May.

Errors Identified

The presentation from Gus Rungis of the GRCA has confirmed that the HWSS had, in fact, used a "regional storm" model which experts estimate might recur in a two to five hundred year interval. This corrects information presented at the public meeting (Beehive Room, Sept. 2003) where it had been stated that the floodplain analysis was based on the one hundred year storm – that is the storm that might on average occur once every century.

In February, the HWSS WC reviewed the culvert sizes used in the floodplain modeling and found that every one examined had errors. The City has asked the consultant to correct the information and prepare revised floodlines. The subwatershed boundary of Middle Creek is also being adjusted in the area north of Middleblock Road and west of Fountain Street. Wendy Wright, Commissioner of Planning Services for the City of Cambridge commented regarding downstream affects, "it is possible that the floodlines along Middle Creek will be reduced, but until the analysis is complete the extent or significance of the impact is not known."

The MGWA is currently working with the Ontario MNR to correct the boundaries of the wetlands. Certain wetland classifications on areas that were not really wetlands were removed. Some wetland

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boundaries were adjusted to more accurately reflect reality.

Wetlands preservation is important for flood prevention, for groundwater quality, as well as for ecological preservation. Moreover, it is important that these features be accurately reflected in the City's inventory, as they may then be used to place land use restrictions on your properties.

Concerns expressed by property owners yet to be addressed, include buffers and the enhancement/ stewardship areas, among others. If the errors identified by representatives of the MGWA and acknowledged in the Working Committee of the HWSS are adopted or corrected, these

items should have an impact on the outcomes and the recommendations. MGWA members, Councillor Cowsill and staff of the City, RMoW, GRCA and MNR have been working in a cooperative manner, and overall, we are cautiously optimistic that we will be making substantial progress in the near future.

Several people have indicated that they would like to follow our progress in more detail and so we have been making an extra effort to ensure detailed minutes are produced for each meeting. You may find the HWSS WC agendas and minutes posted on the City's web site at:

<http://www.city.cambridge.on.ca/section.php?sid=25>

About the MGWA News

The *MGWA News* is published four times a year by the Maple Grove Wetlands Association, in Cambridge, Ontario. It is made possible by the generous contributions of members like you. Opinions expressed herein are the author's, and may or may not reflect those of the Association. For more information please contact the Maple Grove Wetlands Association at:



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