

THE TAYLOR MASSEY PROJECT

Celebrating and Protecting Taylor Massey Creek

August 23, 2007

Laurel Broten
Ontario Minister of Environment
12th Floor - 135 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario, M4V 1P5

Re: E. coli Levels Still Exceeding Provincial Water Quality Objectives

Dear Minister Broten,

We write to inform you that water quality sampling in Taylor Massey Creek has revealed continuing high levels of E. coli bacteria contamination in violation of provincial water quality objectives.

Samples were taken on July 23, 2007, during dry weather conditions, at several outfall locations between Don Mills Road and Dawes Road, which Toronto Water identified last year as highly contaminated and in need of remedial action. Independent lab results show that the worst area sampled was contributing E. coli bacteria into Taylor Massey Creek at a level more than 200 times the provincial water quality standard, as per Table 1 below.

While this is significantly lower than E. coli levels Toronto Water found at the same outfall locations in August 2005, we consider 200 times the provincial water quality objective an unacceptable risk to public and animal health.

Table 1: Comparison of Taylor Massey Creek Outfall E. coli Testing

Outfall Number	Most Recent Samples Taken by Toronto Water Counts/100 mL *	Ryder/Maxxam Analytics Inc. July 23, 2007 Counts/100 mL *	Factor July 07 Sample Exceeds PWQO*
TC24	56,000 Aug 05	>20,000	>200 times
TC22	24,000 Aug 06	3600	36 times
TC6	11,000 July 06	2500	25 times
TC6 Spillway	n/a	1100	11 times
DVP	n/a	1200	12 times

* Provincial Water Quality Objective: 100 counts/100 mL

Consistent with the provincial government's broad set of initiatives to protect and clean up our water, we would appreciate an explanation as to what will be done to eradicate these dangerously high levels of E. coli contamination and ensure that water quality throughout the Taylor Massey Creek meets provincial water quality objectives.

As the E. coli polluting Taylor Massey Creek is coming from municipal infrastructure and flows into Lake Ontario, the drinking water source for millions of Ontarians, we would appreciate your earliest attention to this matter.

Please feel free to contact either the undersigned, as indicated, or our Chair, Nancy Penny, via Chair@TheTMP.org, for further information.

Sincerely,

Grainne Ryder
Chair, Water Quality Committee
waterqualitycommittee@TheTMP.org

cc

Michael Prue, MPP
David Miller, Mayor of Toronto
Toronto Councillors Janet Davis, Adrian Heaps, Michael Thompson, & Norm Kelley
Lou Di Gironimo, General Manager, Toronto Water
Joanne Di Caro, Manager, Environmental Monitoring & Protection, Toronto Water
Task Force to Bring Back the Don
Don Watershed Regeneration Council
Lake Ontario Waterkeeper

Notes on Sample Locations

TC24 outfall is in Taylor Creek Park on the north side of Taylor Massey Creek near a footbridge located 10 metres south of the end of Park Vista street near Dawes Road.

TC22 outfall is in Taylor Creek Park on the south side of Taylor Massey Creek at the end of the path leading to Halsey Ave.

TC6 outfall is 900 metres east of the south parking lot in Taylor Creek Park, near Don Mills Road and the Don Valley Parkway, on the left side of the creek when facing upstream.

TC6 spillway is the first concrete spillway upstream from TC6 outfall. Sample was taken immediately downstream from the spillway.

DVP – taken from Taylor Massey Creek 10 metres downstream from the northbound bridge of the Don Valley Parkway.

References

Toronto Water, Taylor-Massey Creek Priority Outfall Sample Results, Appendix A, 2006.

Toronto Water, Taylor-Massey Creek Priority Outfall Locations and Descriptions, Appendix B, 2006.