

THE TAYLOR MASSEY PROJECT

Celebrating and Protecting Taylor Massey Creek

July 26, 2005

Rod Anderton
Works and Emergency Services
City of Toronto
PDF via e-mail

Dear Mr Anderton,

Thank you for agreeing to receive a list of outfalls of concern to The Taylor Massey Project for potential inclusion in this summer's dry-weather outfall testing along Taylor Massey Creek. The list consists of more than 30 locations, and has been prepared by several Reach Co-ordinators and other core volunteers.

We have one question, followed by our list. Our question is: The motion passed by the City refers to "stormwater outfalls". Please clarify if this is generic terminology and that your intention will be to include CSOs, outfalls coming from old landfill sites, and the flow from any pipes or swales coming from private property.

Our List:

1: All CSO's in the TM watershed

Please note that we have some concern about the accuracy of the City's list of CSOs. This stems from two sets of on-going correspondence, as follows:

1.1 As submitted to the WES Consultation group on August 11, 2003 in response to the pen-ultimate report on the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan and long before your assumption of your current responsibilities, there are several discrepancies with CSO information described within the text and/or on drawings in the report, issues never answered by the WES Consultation Group. For example, while page 5.16 of the report stated there are 13 CSOs in Taylor Massey Creek, there are only 6 shown on drawing 2.5.1.1. In addition, while there are 10 priority outfalls on 2.3.5.2, this list obviously does not correspond to the 13 CSOs. We therefore request complete dry-weather testing of all 13 CSOs;

1.2 Given the nature of on-going confusion over the location of the outfall cited in the Lake Ontario WaterKeeper report about which we have chatted since you assumed your new responsibilities, it would appear that not only is this outfall not numbered, in

accordance with standard City practice, but it may also not be considered a CSO. As it is also located in an area where there appear to be three outfalls, we ask you to be comprehensive about all outfalls on the south side of the Creek east of Pharmacy. Proceeding upstream from Pharmacy toward the east, we believe there are three outfalls within 200 M of Pharmacy, all on the south/east bank:

- 1.2.1 The outfall from the disconnected RAP Stormceptor experiment located between the Works Yard and Pharmacy Avenue;
- 1.2.2 The Lake Ontario Keeper cited outfall, with an un-numbered concrete headwall located just beside the entrance road coming down from Pharmacy, just as the roadway begins to broaden into being the Warden Woods parking lot; and,
- 1.2.3 The major swale in Warden Woods coming down from the subway embankment, crossing underneath the paved trail just south of the only footbridge in the Park. There is a headwall for this immediately east of the trail, and the flow is then piped under the trail and conducted to a swale leading to the Creek. Since the major repair of the trail this spring, the water that often collects between headwall and the trail looks rather unhealthy.

2. Other Outfalls

2.1 Headwaters and the Terraview Willowfield Reach

- 2.1.1 The first outfall, bringing the base flow above ground at the start of the Terraview Willowfield site;
- 2.1.2 The turquoise pipe located just south of the splash pad, draining the treatment pond under the soccer field;
- 2.1.3 Water entering the small bog just north of the footbridge beside the school, making it North of the concrete channel under the Warden Hydro Corridor; and,
- 2.1.4 A small outfall just off the end of this same footbridge, draining a local residential area;

2.2 Underwriters Road Reach

- 2.2.1 Any outfalls and swales from parking lots on the west side of the Creek south of Lawrence, particularly from Toronto Hydro, the companies opposite Toronto Hydro, the large Cadbury's plant north of Bertrand (where we think there is some illegal encroachment) and the companies between Bertrand and Ashtonbee where there is also significant encroachment and possible illegal outdoor storage of chemicals and water material on publicly-owned lands;
- 2.2.2 The large box culvert bringing an old tributary into the Creek, on its west bank, just off the end of Crousse; and,
- 2.2.3 The swale bringing the water from wetlands south of Crousse and under the Gatineau Hydro into the Creek;

2.3 Eglinton Reach, south the RR tracks

2.3.1 The swale coming from Birchmount, on the south side of the RR tracks, with a small box culvert 10 M south of the tracks themselves. BTW, your staff might also want to look at the eastern of the two large culverts under the tracks themselves, as this culvert is collapsing and the support beams erected inside of it cause debris thrown into the Creek to pile up inside the culvert, presenting possible flooding concerns, due to the absence of debris cages, has as we have been telling the City for three years; and,

2.3.2 The local stream that has been put mostly underground but which currently daylight into a swale running immediately south of the large commercial property on the east side of the Creek, just north of the southern footbridge in this area;

2.4 The Goulding Estate

2.4.1 A culvert emptying an entombed brook into the Creek, on the south side, about 60 M east of the stairs at Dawes Road; and

2.4.2 A leachate zone about 35 meters east of the stairs beside Dawes Rd. We have photos of yukky orange stuff pooling in this location before going over the bank into the creek that we can send you; and

2.5 Taylor Creek Park

2.5.1 Any and all of the overflow pipes coming from abandoned landfills, particularly on the south bank of the Creek between Dawes Road and the O'Connor bridge, as documented in a report commissioned by Beth McEwen, Forestry, entitled Restoration priorities for Taylor Creek Park. If Ms McEwen is on vacation, I can send you a copy; and,

2.5.2 We think you should also test the outfalls at the end of both the Ferris and Curity Ravines, where outflow from these ravines joins the Creek, as there may be additional sources of pollution other than from known CSOs.

Thank you again for agreeing to receive our list. As this issue is very dear to us, we would very much like to know which outfalls are already included, if the list is helpful, and/or if you will be able to include any outfalls from our list not currently included in the outfall testing regime. We will then be able to provide an update to all our members, sister organizations, and e-news recipients about our contribution to and comfort with this exercise.

As always, we look forward to working with the City to address water quality as well as other environmental health issues in the Taylor Massey watershed.

Sincerely,

Andrew McCammon, Chair

CC: All Councillors on Works, and/or in whose wards Taylor Massey Creek flows
Selected City reps on the Board of the TRCA
Groups or individuals cited in this correspondence