

# **THE TAYLOR MASSEY PROJECT**

## **Celebrating and Protecting Taylor Massey Creek**

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October 23, 2007

Ms Kathleen Brown  
Supervisor, Toronto District Office  
Ontario Ministry of Environment  
MOE Ref: ENV1283MC-2007-34508

and

Ms Joanne Di Caro  
Environmental Monitoring  
& Protection Unit  
Toronto Water

PDF via email

### **Re: Unsafe E. coli Levels in Taylor Massey Creek**

Dear Ms Brown and Ms Di Caro,

Further to our letter of August 23, 2007, to the Ministry of the Environment and the City<sup>1</sup>, which reported high E. coli levels in Taylor Massey Creek, we would appreciate detailed answers to the following questions:

#### **Water Quality Standards**

1. The Ministry of the Environment's response to our original letter refers to the Provincial Water Quality Objectives (PWQOs) as a guideline, "established for recreational water uses such as swimming." The implication from the Ministry is that the PWQOs do not apply to Taylor Massey Creek. If that is the case, please explain what water quality objectives or standards for E. coli the Ministry and the City are obliged to uphold and apply when evaluating the creek's water quality.

#### **Water Quality Monitoring and the Availability of Results**

2. Given that the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network was established to provide cooperative, non-over-lapping monitoring of water quality within Ontario, please clarify:
  - Where, when, and what sort of monitoring is conducted on an on-going basis in Taylor Massey Creek, and by which agencies (i.e., provincial, municipal, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority); and,
  - Is there a plan to make the results publicly available, preferably on-line? If yes, when? If not, please explain why not.

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<sup>1</sup> A copy is posted under Submissions to Local Agencies at [www.theTMP.org](http://www.theTMP.org).

3. When will the Ministry/City make spill reports, the findings of spill investigations, and any ordered or completed spill remediation available on-line; and,
4. When there are spills or occurrences that result in combined sewer overflows, will the Ministry/City conduct tests and/or issue advisories suggesting people and pets stay away from the contaminated water, in a manner similar to existing water quality tests and public advisories about polluted beaches?

### **Progress on the City's Storm Outfall Monitoring Program**

5. What is the status of the work to identify and eliminate the sources of E. coli in the 21 priority outfalls identified in the City's Storm Outfall Monitoring Program?
6. What is the status of the numbering of the storm outfalls in the creek? If the numbering is not complete, please indicate when all storm outfalls along the creek will have clearly visible numbers on them.

In conclusion, we recognize that both the Ministry and the City are committed to the goals of the Toronto Remedial Action Plan - to make our local waters swimmable, fishable, and drinkable. Some progress has been made and new initiatives - such as the City's wet weather flow master plan and pesticide by-law as well as the Province's new Clean Water Act - should help to achieve the goals.

In the meantime, Taylor Massey Creek continues to be polluted by E. coli and continues to contribute significant volumes of pollution into Lake Ontario, the source of drinking water for millions of people.

The TMP believes that high levels of E. coli in Taylor Massey Creek are unacceptable and must be addressed through aggressive standards, monitoring, enforcement, public accountability, and remediation.

We look forward to your responses.

Sincerely,

*Grainne Ryder*  
Chair, Water Quality Committee

*Andrew McCammon*  
Founding Chair

cc Minister Broten  
Taylor Massey MPPs Duguid, Berardinetti, Prue, and Tabuns  
Mayor Miller  
Taylor Massey Councillors Kelly, Thompson, Heaps, and Davis  
Toronto Remedial Action Plan  
Don Watershed Regeneration Council  
Task Force to Bring Back the Don  
Lake Ontario Waterkeeper