

October 12th 2015

Crowe Valley Conservation Authority
Attn: Mr. Tim Pidduck
General Manager
70 Hughes Lane
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Subject: The Possible Transferring of Administrative Functions to Quinte Conservation Authority or the Legislative Dissolution of the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority under Subsection 13.1 to 13.7 of the Conservation Authorities Act.

Members of the Board of Directors:

This letter, dated October 12th, 2015 is based on the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) full authority minutes, dated May 1st, 2014, in particular FA Motion G 33/14; page 5 Quinte Proposal Update - Ron Gerow and both the September 15th and 16th, 2015 municipal resolution documents that were directed to Mr. Tim Pidduck from both the Municipality of Marmora and Lake and the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen.

In order for the CVCA Board members to better understand what has so far taken place, I would highly suggest reading over pertinent pages of the following CVCA Full Authority Minutes. These three particular CVCA Full Authority Minutes and relevant pages are pertaining to the Quinte Conservation Authority draft service proposal. If you do not have them, I would suggest requesting them from the CVCA General Manager.

- CVCA Full Authority Minutes, dated September 19th, 2013; pages 2, 9, 10, 11 and 12.
- CVCA Full Authority Minutes, dated October 25th, 2013; pages 1 to 10, inclusive.
- CVCA Full Authority Minutes, dated May 1st, 2014; pages 4 and 5.

FA Motion G 33/14, that was moved by Ron Gerow and seconded by Dennis Purcell was voted on and carried; consequently the Quinte Conservation Authority draft service agreement nightmare to all CVCA employees, pertinent Board members and the watershed property owners in general went away; only to return on September 15th and 16th, 2015 as a double council resolution from both the Municipality of Marmora and Lake and the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen councils.

It is my personal opinion that these two particular large municipalities in the CVCA watershed were and are still more concerned in who administers the CVCA, rather than the CVCA municipal levies in 2016. The levy argument, that CVCA levies are too high appears to be a thinly veiled excuse to force an administrative change. Specifically, these two municipalities did not complain about the CVCA levy last year, so why now? The financial justification doesn't make sense, plain and simple and here's why.

The following monetary subject is pertaining to the Municipality of Marmora and Lake and the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen and the 2015 CVCA municipal levy to each of these municipalities.

- The Municipality of Marmora and Lake (2015 CVCA Municipal Levy) = \$71,870.48. The Municipality of Marmora and Lake has approximately 4,029 municipal taxable properties in 2015; divided into the 2015 CVCA municipal levy, equals \$17.84 per municipal property tax bill in 2015.
- The Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen (2015 CVCA Municipal Levy) = \$165,331.52. The Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen had approximately 5,628 municipal taxable properties in 2015; divided into the 2015 CVCA municipal levy, equals \$29.37 per municipal property tax bill in 2015.

If the municipal taxable property calculations are correct, as of the requested property tax numbers; what this translates into is, that every municipal taxable property owner in the Municipality of Marmora and Lake paid \$17.84, in order to monetarily support the 2015 CVCA municipal levy. And, every municipal taxable property in the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen paid \$29.37, in order to monetarily support the 2015 CVCA municipal levy. Members of the CVCA Board, these two municipal councils are whining over \$17.84 and/or \$29.37 plus/minus to each municipal taxable property in the 2016 draft budget. Considering the total amount of municipal taxes I pay, these amounts are barely noticeable. I can hardly buy a lunch for the amount I pay through my municipal taxes for a year's worth of services from the CVCA. In regard to the two municipal resolutions; the municipal councils of the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen and the Municipality of Marmora and Lake are not monetarily realistic.

It is my personal opinion that these two municipal resolutions put forward by the two municipalities is a fiasco and has nothing to do with either Mr. Pidduck or his staff or the CVCA municipal economic levies in 2016. It is more about municipal control over future decisions and one of the biggest decisions on the horizon is pertaining to the Marmora Pumped Storage Hydro-electric generating project and the environmental sensitive and environmentally protected land.

One way to exercise control is to support Quinte Conservation Authority and the position they have already taken to support the Marmora Pumped Storage project in principle. As you are more than likely aware, if it is approved, it would be a massive mega dollar project that will without a doubt have implications for the environmentally sensitive land and the environmentally protected right away land, that the 230kv transmission circuit would be eventually built on. My understanding is, this mega project could have a degree of negative impact on these two sensitive areas, other than Marmora Lake, which I have been advised is fish inhabited.

In my opinion, by Quinte Conservation Authority supporting the Marmora Pumped Storage project in principle, they did not appear concerned in the least, while I can only assume the CVCA Board members would do their appointed job to protect the environment and the safety of the Municipality of Marmora and Lake residents, pertaining to the above ground water holding reservoir and possible ground water shortages in rural areas east and especially south of the present Marmora Lake.

Again in my opinion, if the CVCA members of the Board could see fit to pass a unanimous supporting resolution, that in principle the CVCA Board supports the Marmora Pump Storage Plant location and the 230kv transmission circuit right away, to be located on pertinent environmental sensitive and environmentally protected land adjacent to the Marmora Mine Road and the Goat Hill Road, all these CVCA problems related to the two recent resolutions will go away; as I previously stated, this is just my personal opinion.

Should the CVCA Board accept the terms as so boldly presented in the two municipal resolutions from both the Township of Havelock - Belmont - Methuen and the Municipality of Marmora and Lake, it will without a doubt, be the death knell for the CVCA and the watershed. If you are not quite sure what I am stating, then I would suggest you have an in depth discussion with your General Manager, Mr. Tim Pidduck; I believe Mr. Pidduck could explain it better.

The two municipal councils and their brash resolution ultimatum, is nothing more than drawing a line in the sand and that line is a maximum 2016 total municipal levy of \$116,741.00. The 2015 total levy was \$430,048.00, this would be a reduction of \$313,307 or 73% to the current levy. The CVCA would be decimated with staff layoffs, reduced capabilities, and ultimately left with no choice but to seek an immediate service proposal from the Quinte Conservation Authority or the Lower Trent Conservation Authority. I will say it and stand by it; in my personal opinion, these two well organized conservation authorities can't possibly deliver the goods like the CVCA can and definitely not for the price of a \$116,741.00 total municipal levy. Ask yourselves, is this really what the CVCA Board, staff and the general public want?

Mr. Pidduck, I am requesting that you make the necessary arrangements to have this letter, dated October 12th, 2015 circulated to each member of the Board, prior to the next CVCA Board meeting on the 19th of November 2015 and also have it placed on the Boards agenda for discussion. This CVCA and Quinte Conservation Authority service administration fiasco has to stop; members of the Board, put yourselves in the position of the seven dedicated CVCA employees and their family's, they are being put through living hell.

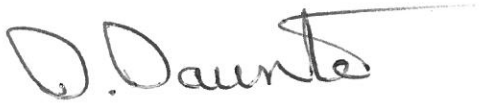
One last point of interest; it really bewilders me that both the municipal councils of the Municipality of Marmora and Lake and the Township of Havelock - Belmont - Methuen could through a municipal resolution, suggest a second management service agreement with the Quinte Conservation Authority. Possibly, not knowing that the CVCA is in debt to the Quinte Conservation Authority for \$2,450.00 of the \$3,450.00 services rendered invoice number IN000019268. Especially, when the CVCA Board under FA Motion G 74/14 voted and decided under a motion. "To direct staff to send a letter to Quinte Conservation stating the Board feels that the \$1000 payment was sufficient for the work provided and no further funds will be sent." Mr. Murphy, and the Quinte Conservation Authority Board must have been quite impressed with the letter and the \$1,000.00 endorsed check from Mr. Pidduck. And these two municipal councils through a resolution, still want a management service agreement with Quinte Conservation Authority. There is saying once bitten, twice shy.

When the CVCA Strategic Alternative Sub-committee discussed possible administrative services with Quinte Conservation Authority, in particular Mr. Terry Murphy; I can only assume there was no discussion or minutes taken related to the CVCA Board backing out of the Quinte Conservation Authority service proposal; in reference to FA Motion G 76/13 and FA Motion G 33/14.

I would like to suggest, that the new CVCA Board should through a motion rescind FA Motion G 74/14 and introduce a new motion, in order to ethically authorize Mr. Pidduck to reimburse the Quinte Conservation Authority the monetary variance of \$2,450.00 owing for services rendered, pertaining to the Quinte Conservation Authority Draft Proposals, etc, etc. Why burn bridges, for \$2,450.00; conservation authorities in Ontario should all work together in harmony.

I can only assume, that the majority of elected officials of these two municipal councils were possibly not aware that the CVCA Board decided through FA Motion G 74/14 to only pay \$1,000.00 of the total \$3,450.00 invoice from Quinte Conservation Authority.

Yours truly,



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i.c. Quinte Conservation Authority, Board of Directors
The Honourable. Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources, M.P.P.
Eleanor McMahon, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources, M.P.P.