## Little River Dike Improvement Project

## Riverside Drive to McHugh Street







### History of Improvements

• In the 1980s a drainage study was undertaken to assess and improve the current condition of Little River.

- The study identified that the condition of the banks were suffering distress from erosion and high flow velocities.
- The report recommended installation of a steel sheet wall to protect from erosion and the dike that would protect the surrounding area from high water levels.

Council adopted the report in 1984 under by-law 7635.



## History of Improvements

- Over the next several years these proposed improvements to Little River were completed under the provisions of the Drainage Act and by-law 7635.
- More recently, improvements to the steel sheet wall were completed in 2014.
- Steel sheet wall improvements included replacement of approx. 120m of the wall.



#### **Current Issues**

- Over time obstructions, alterations, and removal of small sections of the dike have occurred.
- Some of these breaches & alterations include;
  - Decks
  - Boat docks
  - Sheds
  - Fencing
  - Landscaping
- These deficiencies will prevent the dike from providing the flood protection it was originally designed for.



#### **Current Issues**

- The Ontario Drainage Act and The Conservation Authorities Act prohibit
  the construction of any structures or objects in a watercourse or waterway
  if such construction or objects reduce capacity or impede flow. <u>The area</u>
  <u>from the top of the dike to the waters edge must be free and clear of any
  obstructions/structures.</u>
- The drainage report allows the following:
  - 1. A smooth grass surface with no shrubs or trees.
  - 2. Chain link fence allowed from top of dyke to waters edge between properties.
  - 3. Solid fence is allowed from top of dike to the home side of property.
  - 4. Stairs that were incorporated into the original design.



# Under What Authority Can the Project be Undertaken?

- 1. By-Law 7635, which adopted the report, provides authority to maintain the drain in a good state of repair.
- 2. Section 12(1) of the Ontario Drainage Act provides authority to enter on to lands of any person to assess and survey the condition of the drain.
- 3. Section 63(1) of the Ontario Drainage Act gives authority for a contractor to enter onto lands to make improvements or repairs where necessary.
- 4. Section 80(1) of the Ontario Drainage Act gives authority for a municipality to put on notice property owners to remove obstructions within a time specified.



## Steps to Implement Improvements

- 1. A consultant will be hired to assess and survey the current condition of the dike from Riverside Dr. to McHugh St.
  - The assessment will provide an up to date picture of the dike system.
- 2. Once the survey is complete, a notice to homeowners will be sent out requesting obstructions/structures be removed.
  - Homeowners will be provided time to have an opportunity to remove obstructions/structures.
- 3. A contractor will be hired to remove the any remaining obstructions & repair the dike in locations identified in the assessment survey.
  - Contractors will not be permitted to trespass beyond the limits of the working area.
- 4. A maintenance program will be implemented to regularly inspect & repair the drain as needed.

Homeowners will be kept informed throughout all phases of the project.



## Importance of Correcting the Issue

Risks of doing nothing can potentially impact not only your home and neighbours but also:

- 1. 2000+ Homes in the surrounding area
- 2. Elementary Schools
- 3. High Schools
- 4. Churches
- 5. Commercial Structures
- 6. Apartment Buildings
- 7. Little River Pollution Control Plant



## Thank you.

