

# **PACT-POW**

## **Pickering Ajax Citizens Together Protecting Our Water**

**DELIVERED BY EMAIL AND HARD COPY MAIL**

June 18, 2015

Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change  
11th Floor, Ferguson Block  
77 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2T5

**Subject: Duffin Water Pollution Control Plant Outfall EA**

Dear Honourable Glen Murray,

Over the past 2 years, PACT-POW (Pickering Ajax Citizens Together Protecting Our Water) has been engaged in creating public awareness of the causes, impacts and solutions to the excessive algae growth choking the near shore of the Ajax and Pickering Waterfront. PACT-POW's executive had the honour of meeting with Minister Bradley and MPP Joe Dickson on November 28, 2013 to discuss our concerns regarding the Duffin Water Pollution Control Plant.

Algae is fed by soluble reactive phosphorus (SRP), of which more than 90% is discharged into Lake Ontario from the Plant. The Duffin Plant is the second largest in Canada. On February 28, 2014, the Regions of York and Durham completed a Class C Environmental Assessment on the future capacity of the outfall pipe.

It has been 18 months since the Environmental Site Registry (ESR) closed for public comment. Yet another summer is upon us where the putrid smell of decaying algae ruins the public's ability to participate in family picnics and activities along the waterfront. Algae has already started to wash up on shore. To date we have not been made aware of a decision as to how the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change proposes to address PACT-POW's concerns outlined in our Part 2 Order Request.

As you are aware, Canada's Great Lakes Waterfront Trail runs 1400 kilometres along our shores connecting 68 communities. It's a green transportation amenity and world renowned tourist attraction. Its success is measured by the increased numbers of visitors to the Ajax and Pickering waterfront since its inception. Ajax is proud to boast that our entire waterfront is a public park consisting of trails that traverse three watersheds and 2 beach areas. Durham

Region also promotes the waterfront trail in their tourism brochure yet ironically they are opposed to our efforts to remedy the algae issue. Referred to as the "Jewel of Ajax" this waterfront park has been soiled and spoiled with prolific algae growth and algae pads containing e-coli from waterfowl. It is a serious problem which has been deliberately downplayed by the Regions of York and Durham.

Pan Am Toronto 2015 is promoting the "Pam Am Waterfront Route" from Niagara to Brockville as part of the torch relay event. Ajax is hosting the women's and men's softball and baseball Pan Am event, welcoming 125,000 visitors to town. All Ajax hotels are fully booked.

Will Ajax be calling on the MOE to help clean up this year's crop of stinking Algae in time for visitors attending the Pan Am Games or will we be able to advise tourists and residents that future visits will be stink free thanks to the MOECC's decision supporting technology to treat the polluted discharge into Lake Ontario?

The July/August 2013 edition of Canadian Geographic magazine included a map of the Great Lakes Environmental Assessment and Mapping Project which clearly showed that Lake Ontario is under the most ecological strain of any of the Great Lakes. This is an important issue beyond the Ajax shoreline, but reversing the ecological strain can begin with this project, with the favourable decision of a bump up.

The Town of Ajax has gone to great lengths to research the cause of increased nutrient loadings specific to their near shore not dissimilar to what other municipalities are experiencing. At a cost of \$1.7 million tax payer dollars, the Town has scientific evidence identifying the Duffin Water Pollution Control Plant as the point source of phosphorus loadings causing prolific algae growth and jeopardizing future water quality. This deserves the attention and dialogue of all parties concerned.

There is an opportunity through new technology to prevent further degradation of Lake Ontario and it's shoreline by removing phosphorus in the treatment of sewage. While cost is always a consideration so will be the legacy of a government choosing to ignore the problem prior to reaching the "tipping point".

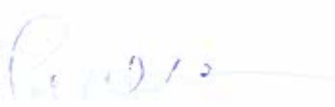
PACT-POW, urgently but respectfully requests to meet with you to discuss our ongoing concerns. Most have been outlined in our Part 2 bump up request and others have arisen since our submission.

We appreciate your time on this matter and truly look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,



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