

City of Burlington Report CM-07-18 – COW Mtg. 4 Jun 2018

My name is Gary Hicks, speaking as a resident of Burlington. Thank you for this opportunity. A permanent expanded Burlington Marina with a rock-wall wave break would be important to the long-term improvement of the bay-water quality; this is evidenced-based thinking from reliable sources. If they thought it could be done, everyone in this room on some level wants the bay-water quality restored.

A rock-wall wave break will be better from an environmental, aesthetic, engineering and long-term financial perspective. Environmentally, as I've said there is a connection between a marina and the long-term water quality of the bay. A rock wall will also provide a place for aquatic plants & animals, birds and other life to thrive. I was at La Salle a few weeks ago and saw a swan nesting on the rock-wall spit. The 2015 environmental Assessment report reviewed all options for a wave break and the preferred option being a fixed wave break. Aesthetically, rock walls are beautiful; for example, the new rock wall spit at La Salle. From an engineering standpoint, a rock-wall makes a much better wave break than a floating wave-break. As opposed to a floating wave break, you're not going *against* gravity – trying to float something that wants to sink. And rock lasts, like no other material. If the 100 plus year La Salle pier was not built with rock, how many times do you think it would have had to be replaced?

We could be make a clear intention to have a rock wall and expand the marina in the long-term; but first, I have nine points that I offer as food for thought:

1. To allow adequate time for public discussion, has the City planned for first-draft plans and recommendations that allow time for second-draft, etc. and then final plans? This process started over 10 years ago, but City has not provided any draft plans or recommendations of its own until recently. Would the City decide

to close the Burlington Marina with less than one month of notice to the public?

2. In the time this has been discussed, Pickering has gotten provincial and federal funding and built a rock sea wall to protect its harbour. What efforts, if any, has the City made to get federal and provincial funding?
3. Has the City's process allowed enough time for the Marina Association volunteers find ways to counter propose with an acceptable plan to the City for the preferred rock wall plan, to find a way to pay for City's option B plan or come up with other suggestions for improving the City's proposed plans?
4. Is the City acting in a good faith, responsible and legal manner in terms of getting out of a contract with the boaters by closing the marina?
5. One of its reasons to not build a rock wall is that there is no time to build a rock wall, but isn't it the City's responsibility to act proactively and in a timely manner to allow for the best outcomes in the stewardship of City assets and services?
6. If a decision is not made today or *VERY* soon to go with at least option B, it will be too late for even option B too? As part of responsible stewardship of City assets in what time frame and with what sense of urgency will the City act?
7. It is implied that \$4 million dollars is a lot of money? It's a lot of money, but it's not too because everything is relative? It's an investment - a capital expense, not an operational cost. Soon, \$4 million may not buy you two houses in Toronto, right? I don't have access to the figures, but the cost of a floating wave break is

at least less than 1/100th of a penny relative to the City's assets, correct? – and, even a rock wall is less than a penny, correct?
 <unspoken calculations: (4 million/4billion= 0.001% 30million/4 billion=0.0075)>

8. Risk is and can be handled from everything from 'Damn the Torpedoes' to a 'Cover-Your-Assets' (CYA) risk management approach that prefers no risk - not to do things. Yes, consider the do-nothing option, but also ask 'How we can make challenging-projects possible to keep Burlington a first-class city?' The City is in a competition with other cities. What are the lost revenues to the City of JUST ONE company President not locating himself and his growing business in Burlington because there is not a quality marina for his boat? Could 'playing it too safe' be the most dangerous thing we could do here?
9. Lastly, every City wants and has a marina. This is not a trifle fact to be dismissed lightly. This fact needs to be given A LOT of weight, correct? Is the vision and mission of the City to continue to be the best mid-size City in Canada? Or are we satisfied being the only city without a marina or a with having a smaller-than-necessary-and-what-is-needed marina with a low-price wave-break?

We can plan to build a marina with a rock-wall in the long term. The City can think outside the box of option A or option B. Put the boaters temporarily over in Hamilton until a rock wall can be built? Buy a floating wave break and sell it later? Hamilton may have a second-hand floating wave break wall that we can have for free next year? How can we find ways to give Burlington the best marina and bay waterfront bar none?

I still think this whole thing is 'rock', not 'rocket' science. And, I still think Burlington Councillors are 'rock' stars!