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UTJ Nov 26/09

WORKS

Uxbridge to assess 'deficient' culvert

Temporary measures taken to maintain structure

BY JEFF HAYWARD
jhayward@durhamregion.com

UXBRIDGE — Uxbridge has set aside more than \$100,000 for an environmental assessment to decide the future of the culvert that runs beneath Brock Street.

Meanwhile, interim measures are being taken to deal with a "deficient" section of the more than 220-metre structure that carries the Uxbridge Brook northwards to Lake Simcoe.

Ben Kester, director of public works, said in a report an inspection of the culvert was performed last summer with a "second opinion" from another company in the fall, confirming the culvert directly below Brock Street is in need of repairs.

The contractor, Aecom, is designing struts to temporarily support the Township-owned section of the culvert under the parking lot adjacent to Toronto Street North.

The Region, which owns the section

under Brock Street, is monitoring their culvert on an ongoing basis and is investigating interim maintenance measures if in fact they are needed," noted Mr. Kester.

Uxbridge has set aside \$125,000, to be split between the 2010 and 2011 budgets, depending if the Region will assist in the total cost of the assessment at about \$250,000.

"Hopefully the Region will match (Uxbridge's contribution)," said Mr. Kester.

Regional Councillor Howie Hertzema said Region staff supports the assessment in principle, "but there's no commitment to dollars" yet.

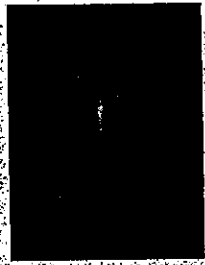
Mr. Kester noted previously the result of the assessment will determine if the brook should be opened up, a move that is part of an approved Township vision statement. But the assessment will take about 18 months, added Mr. Kester.

Councillors expressed concern about the level of danger to the public due to the

need for repairs. Mr. Kester said there is no immediate threat, but acknowledged the culvert "could collapse down the road." The culvert was previously identified as a flood risk by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

Meanwhile, Uxbridge has allocated another \$195,000 for 2010, to be added to a previously budgeted amount of \$75,000, for an environmental assessment of Main Street South from Mill Street to Brookdale Road.

"With the amount of traffic (on that section), we need a curb and gutter," said Mr. Kester, noting sidewalks may also be part of the upgrades there.



BEN KESTER

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Uxbridge Times-Journal / November 26, 2009

Uxbridge Brook subject of assessment

On the heels of the announcement of continuing work on Brock St. as part of the downtown revitalization project, the Uxbridge Brook may soon undergo a makeover.

The Township of Uxbridge and the Region of Durham recently initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment to evaluate possible replacement designs for the culvert that runs underneath Brock St. in the downtown business area.

The culvert, which is approximately 200 metres long and carries the Uxbridge Brook through the downtown, extends from Centennial Dr. downstream underneath the municipal parking lot on the north side of Brock St.

"These are structural issues and nothing too serious at this point," said Ben Kester, director of Public Works for Uxbridge Township. "The current design

should last another 10 to 20 years but we are setting a goal for the future."

The study will also evaluate opportunities for reducing the risk of flooding in the downtown core, a problem that came to the forefront after the Peterborough flood in 2005.

The public will have the opportunity to provide input on the project and voice their concerns at Public Information Centres (PICs), the first of which will take place in October or November.

There will be three PICs over the course of the study to provide additional information, identify alternative designs being evaluated, answer questions from the public regarding the project and generate feedback and comments.

Aug 25, 2010 - Uxbridge Standard

Designed Lifestyles with Susan Fedorka

Buy Canadian

As we look back on the year that has been, and forward to the holiday season, several trends or events stick out in our minds.

First of all, the drive to be "Green" is still going strong as is the movement to buy locally

which was evident with all the farmers' markets, grown locally signs and recipes highlighting Ontario produce.

As we move into the gift-buying season, give some thought to continuing these trends. Over the years I have discussed the importance of sustainability and

how it has become the new buzz word for everything that touches our lives - from the way we design our buildings to the products we use in them.

Buying Canadian-made products can be difficult to do, especially with our tunnel vision of wanting items to be as inexpensive to buy as possible. This has resulted in an influx of poorly made products being imported from countries with poor labour laws and questionable environmental controls.

However, there are many local artisans and craftsmen who make wonderful items that can be given as gifts this year. There will be an abundance of Christmas and church fairs from which to make your selection as well as artists who have exhibits or studios that offer wonderful gift ideas.

Your son or daughter may prefer a gift card but most children will eventually be going off to school so why not purchase a solid, Canadian built desk or bookshelf for them that will stand the rigors of moving and overuse?

Years ago, we would know the

names of the top Canadian manufacturers, but times have changed and few of us would be able to name one manufacturer of either furniture or appliances. Fortunately there is a website - www.qualitycanadianfurniture.ca that lists many Canadian furniture manufacturers (and there are a few right here in Uxbridge - see page 12).

Initially, buying a solidly built piece of furniture might appear to be too expensive, but well made furniture can be repaired, painted or stained to match your décor and should stand up to a great deal of wear and tear.

For those of you who didn't catch the article, apparently the new trend for moms is to buy solidly built furniture when the baby is born and adapt it to the child as they grow older. So an antique bureau, with its wide top will initially be used as a changing table and then as the child grows, it will be used as a bureau and because it is solid wood, it can be painted, stripped and repaired to reflect the changing styles and trends.

How many times have you seen barely used baby furniture at garage sales?

Initially, it may be easier and cheaper to walk into a big box store and buy a bookcase that is

imported from overseas and made out of chipboard and cardboard, but in a year or two, when it starts to fall apart, not only will we be adding to the dumps, but will we know what we are adding?

I recently took recyclable stuff to the local dump and I was amazed at the products that people are tossing out and you have to know, just from looking at the quality of the stuff, that it isn't all that old.

So, now that we accept that buying our food, bread, cheese and wine locally is the right thing to do, let's support the rest of the Canadian economy and buy furniture and other gifts manufactured here.

Finally, as the holiday season approaches, and gift buying season is upon us, think about supporting the local craft shows and vendors. Yes, it is definitely easier to buy gift cards, but we have many gifted local artisans, artists and woodworkers who deserve our support.



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Public meeting tonight on reducing flood risk

The Township of Uxbridge and Region of Durham have initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment to evaluate alternative solutions for reducing flood risk in the downtown Uxbridge area. The project will also consider replacement options for the 200 meter long culvert that conveys Uxbridge Brook underneath Brock Street, often an element under discussion in Uxbridge's downtown revitalization plans.

Various alternative solutions will be analyzed and evaluated based on feasible engineering technologies, natural, social, economic and cultural environments, cost and ultimate timeline for implementation. The first Public Information Centre (PIC) # 1 is scheduled for tonight, Thursday, Nov. 25, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the municipal offices. The purpose of the first PIC is to introduce the study, answer questions regarding the project, and solicit feedback and comments. Public input during the planning process of this project is encouraged.

The Township and Region are interested in hearing any comments or concerns the public may have with respect to this study. Comments will be maintained for reference throughout the project and will become part of the public record. Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Environmental Assessment Act, unless otherwise stated in the submission, any personal information such as name, address, telephone number and property location included in a submission will become part of the public record files for this matter and will be released, if requested, to any person.

If you have any comments or questions, require any further information about the study or the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process, or wish to be included as a stakeholder, please contact the Township of Uxbridge.

Following the PIC, the material presented at the meeting will be posted on the Region's website under Departments > Works > Studies and Projects.

Moe's Meats

1 GOT A GUARD DOG FOR MY MEAT CART.

HOW'S HE WORKING OUT?

WELL, HE DOES PROTECT THE CART BUT...

... HE STEALS HALF OF MY PROFITS.

Nov 18, 10
Andrew Miller

Township to hold open house on environmental assessment

DARRYL KNIGHT

The Uxbridge Standard

Nov 25, 2010

Members of the public are invited to attend a pair of open houses at Uxbridge Township offices later this month.

The Township of Uxbridge and Region of Durham are inviting the public to a Public Information Centre regarding a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment to evaluate alternative solutions to reduce the risk of flooding in the Uxbridge downtown area.

The project will also consider options for the replacement of the 200-metre long culvert that conveys Uxbridge Brook underneath Brock St.

The Public Information Centre (PIC) regarding the evaluation of alternative solutions to reduce the risk of flooding in the downtown area of Uxbridge is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 25, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Town-

ship of Uxbridge Municipal Office, located at 51 Toronto St. S. in Uxbridge.

The purpose of the Public Information Centre is to introduce the study, answer questions regarding the project and solicit feedback and comments from the public. Public input during the planning process of this project is encouraged.

The township and the region are interested in hearing any comments or concerns the public may have with respect to this study. Comments will be maintained for reference throughout the project and will become part of the public record. Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Environmental Assessment Act, unless otherwise stated in the submission, personal information such as name, address, telephone number and property location will become part of the public record for this matter and will be released, if requested, to any person.

If you have any comments or questions, require any further information about the study or the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process, or wish to be included as a stakeholder, contact: Ben Kester, Director of Public Works for the Township of Uxbridge at 905-852-9181, ext. 215 or bkester@town.uxbridge.on.ca; David Dunn, Engineering Technician with the Regional Municipality of Durham, at 905-668-7711, ext. 3422 or at david.dunn@durham.ca; or Jennifer Haslett, Project Coordinator with SRM Associates at 905-686-6402 or jhaslett@srmasociates.org.

Following the Public Information Centre, the material presented at the meeting will be posted on the Region's web site, at www.durham.ca.

Members of the public are also invited to a budget open house to be held in council chambers on Monday, Nov. 29, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., to provide input on the 2011 municipal budget.

**Crews start work on culvert that closed road
Metroland - Kawartha Division
Tuesday November 30, 2010**

(BEAVERTON) Thorah Concession 2 could re-open in time for the holidays.

In an interview Monday, Brock Township CAO/Clerk Thom Gettinby said that crews will soon begin replacing a culvert that has closed the road for nine months.

"We've been advised that the contractor should be able to mobilize crews this week and that the work should be completed by Dec. 22," Mr. Gettinby said.

The road has been closed to through traffic west of Highway 12 since early March after the culvert partially collapsed. The road was deemed unsafe for traffic after an engineer investigated several large cracks in the concrete base of the culvert and a pair of sizable holes in the road bed.

While the project wasn't included in this year's budget, council decided to proceed with the work after two other culvert replacements in other areas of the municipality came in well under budget.

Nearly \$850,000 was set aside in this year's budget to replace culverts on Concession 11 and Thorah Sideroad but they will only cost slightly more than \$340,000. While a funding agreement with the provincial and federal governments for the culvert on Thorah Sideroad means the municipality won't receive the full break on that project, it's expected the Township saved around \$400,000 on those two projects.

Flood risk in downtown Uxbridge under review
Uxbridge Times-Journal
Tuesday November 30, 2010

UXBRIDGE -- The Township is looking at ways to reduce flood risk in downtown Uxbridge by studying alternatives to the current Brock Street culvert.

Staff held a public information session at Town Hall on Nov. 25 to introduce the environmental assessment study, answer questions and get feedback from the public regarding the project.

The purpose is to look at ways to reduce the flood risk in downtown Uxbridge by focusing on the Brock Street culvert. According to the study, the 200-metre culvert, which encloses Uxbridge Brook between Centennial Drive and a parking lot north of Brock Street, is a bottleneck during a severe flood.

During a major flood event such as Hurricane Hazel that hit in 1954, land next to the Uxbridge Brook, particularly between Elgin Pond and Brock Street, was flooded.

While the study recommends "the deteriorated condition of the culvert" would require that it be replaced, there are no current recommendations on what to replace it with, only a "preferred option" that was contained a 1983 flood relief study.

In that study, a twin concrete box culvert located to the east and at a higher elevation of the current structure was recommended. Part of the current study involves evaluating the merits of the 1983 study and to propose new ideas to fit current needs.

The next step of the project includes completing supporting studies, exploring possible solutions and identifying recommended solutions. Those recommended solutions will then be presented at a future public information session.

For more information or to get a copy of the study, visit Uxbridge Town Hall, the Township's website or the Region of Durham website. There is also information about who to contact with questions, comments or for those wishing to become a stakeholder in the study.

Downtown flood will happen, but when?

by Roger Varley

It is a certainty that downtown Uxbridge will be hit with a major flood. The only question is "when?"

So says Tom Fowle, chair of Uxbridge's watershed committee.

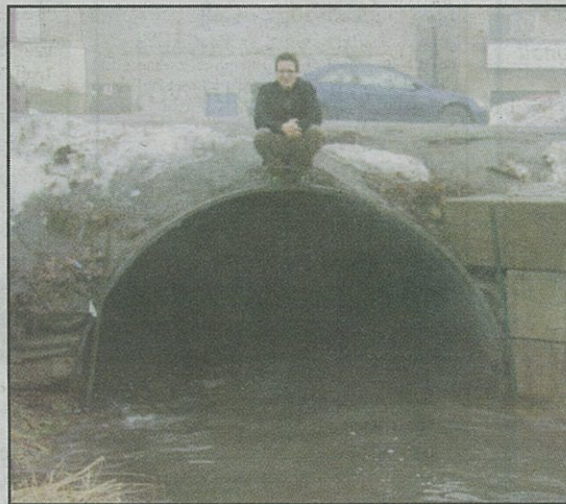
Mr. Fowle said that is why the

Township is currently undertaking an environmental assessment with regard to the culvert carrying the Uxbridge Brook through the heart of the downtown core, under Brock Street. The study, now into its fourth month, is being done by a consultant hired by the Township and the Region. Part of the study included a public information session last week, at which were presented some preliminary possibilities for dealing with a major flood.

Mr. Fowle said a study done in 1983 concluded that a major regional storm - "something like Hurricane Hazel" - could see the downtown core under about two metres of water from Toronto Street to

Main Street, with major property damage and possible loss of life.

He said such a flood is known as



a 200-year storm.

"In any 200-year period, it is statistically certain such a flood will happen," he said. "It is wrong to say it will never happen. You just

can't say when it will happen."

He said public works director Ben Kester was authorized in 2008 to engage a consultant in concert with the Region to do a new study. Durham Region is involved because it owns the centre part of the culvert under Brock Street, while the township owns the north and south ends.

Mr. Fowle said a number of people attending the information session suggested they would like to see the culvert opened north of Brock

Street. While such a move has its backers on Township Council, opening up the brook would have an impact on downtown parking and downtown revitalization plans. He said two of three studies on the culvert in recent years have recommended the culvert be replaced.

Asked about the possibility of looking further upstream for

solutions to prevent downtown flooding, Mr. Fowle said that has been studied but there is not enough storage capacity upstream to hold the expected surge of water.

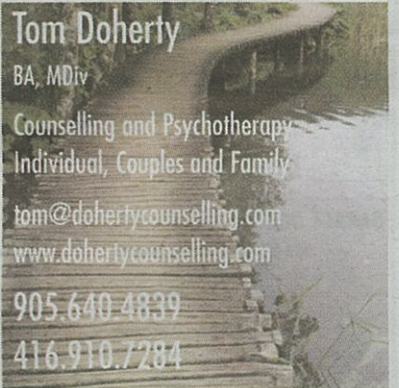
"We have to find a way to channel it through the downtown," he said.

He said the current study is building on the work of the 1983 study. "We're not re-inventing the wheel," he added.

A second public information session is likely to be held sometime in March, with a third slated for some time later in the new year.



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Flood risk in downtown Uxbridge under review

Public feedback sought during meeting

UXBRIDGE -- The Township is looking at ways to reduce flood risk in downtown Uxbridge by studying alternatives to the current Brock Street culvert.

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UXBRIDGE -- A study on ways to reduce flood risk in Uxbridge has been unveiled.

DENNIS LENZIN

Uxbridge committee met with 'roar of silence' over downtown flood alleviation issue

Jul 19, 2011 - 09:12 AM
DON CAMPBELL

UXBRIDGE -- The chair of the Uxbridge Watershed Committee is urging downtown residents and business owners to step up and offer their input on a downtown flood alleviation strategy.

Committee chair Tom Fowle said he has been disappointed with progress in developing a downtown flood alleviation strategy with those who would be most affected by a potential flood during a recent update to Uxbridge council.

"We've been met by a roar of silence," he said of efforts to meet and discuss the issue with area residents and business owners.

"We don't want to arrive at a solution only to have people say they don't like it and have to start the project over again," he said.

He noted that past efforts to reach out have been met with silence, but added that a meeting is being set up with the Uxbridge BIA where he hopes to further discuss the issue.

The watershed committee is a committee of Uxbridge council made up of appointed members. It serves as an advisory body to council with a focus on implementing watershed plans within the township. Mr. Fowle also provided an update on other recent and current projects including installing stream signs, the yellow fish road project, golf course policy, as well as stormwater phosphorus removal.

"There has been very slow progress on phosphorus removal," noted Mr. Fowle, adding he hopes to have more information on how effective recent tree planting has been in reducing levels for the next council update.

Council was also updated on upcoming programs including a watershed walk, concert, a Toronto Region Conservation Authority stormwater program and using social networking to promote the committee's projects.

Public meeting to outline options for avoiding downtown flood

by Roger Varley

Yellow ribbons are tied to two lampposts on the south side of Brock Street West. One lamppost stands in front of the Uxbridge Youth Centre, the other in front of the former Uxbridge Country Kitchen.

The ribbons are just over seven feet above the sidewalk and indicate how high flood waters could reach should the township be hit by a "regional" storm (defined as a 12 hour storm with a maximum intensity of 53 mm/hr and a total rainfall of 212 mm, approximately 8 inches). A photo montage in the window of the youth centre shows what the street would look like under seven feet of water. Tom Fowle of the Uxbridge Watershed Committee said the flood water on the south side of the stores on Brock Street would be as much as 18 feet deep.

He explained at a press briefing Monday that a regional storm is the type that can statistically be expected to hit the area once every 200 years and cause major flooding and attendant damage.

Mr. Fowle showed slides documenting some of the damage caused in several towns in Vermont earlier this year when the East Coast was hit by Hurricane Irene. He also showed a photo taken in 1965 in the area now known as Uxbridge's Centennial Park, where flood

waters, caused by a combination of rain and a heavy spring snow melt, covered the plain.

Also in his presentation were maps showing the area of the town that could be flooded in the event of a major storm. The flooding, he said, would extend from Main Street to Toronto Street and from Reach Street to north of Dominion Street. Mr. Fowle said such flooding would cause an estimated \$15 million in damages, none of it insurable.

The watershed committee and the Township are currently in the process of conducting a \$170,000 environmental assessment related to reconstruction of the culvert which carries the Uxbridge Brook under downtown Uxbridge. At the end of the assessment, expected next summer, the experts expect to arrive at the best possible solution for replacing the current culvert and alleviating the potential for devastating flooding.

Ben Kester, director of public works, said the culvert as it currently exists was built in about nine sections, consisting of concrete in some sections, steel pipe in others and, under Brock Street itself, a stone arch. One of the possible solutions is to enlarge the present culvert under the street and then construct an open channel along what is now the municipal parking lot. Mr. Kester said there would also be problems associated with smaller culverts further north along the stream.

He said there could be as many as five possible options, which he will introduce at a public meeting at the council chambers at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 2. Mr. Fowle observed that whatever solution is decided upon, "every alternative has positive and negative effects". But, he added, going ahead with a project to protect the town from a regional storm would eliminate the risk of loss of life, lower the risk of property damage, increase property values and allow for more development downtown. Currently, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority allows no new development in the downtown area until a flood plan is in place.

However, whatever solution is arrived at, Mr. Kester noted with will take "many millions"

to implement.

"It might get too expensive to build for a regional storm" he said.

Mr. Fowle urged residents, especially those whose properties might be affected by flooding from a regional storm, to attend the public information session.



Extra-Terrestrial Tidbits

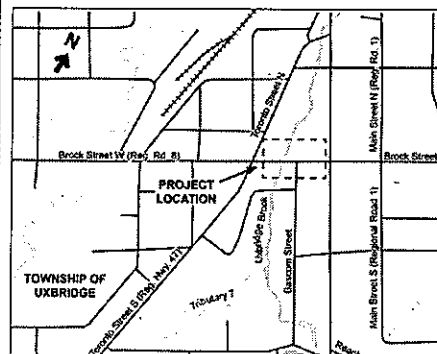


Uxbridge Downtown Flood Reduction Municipal Class Environmental Assessment NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #2

WORKS DEPARTMENT

OCTOBER 20, 2011

PUBLIC NOTICE



The Township of Uxbridge and Region of Durham have initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment to evaluate alternative solutions for reducing flood risk in the downtown Uxbridge area. The project will also consider replacement options for the 200 metre long culvert that conveys Uxbridge Brook underneath Brock Street (refer to Key Map).

The study is proceeding in accordance with the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, October 2000, as amended in 2007 - Schedule 'C'. Various alternative solutions will be analyzed and evaluated based on feasible engineering technologies, natural, social, economic and cultural

DURHAM REGION S - JOURNAL

October 27, 2011

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CELIA KLEMENZ / METROLAN

UXBRIDGE -- High on a ladder, Tom Fowle, chairman of the Uxbridge Watershed Advisory Board, measured and marked the height flood waters from the Uxbridge Brook would be in downtown Uxbridge in the event of a regional storm event.

Flood warning in Uxbridge

MEASURES FOR DOWNTOWN ON MEETING AGENDA

DON CAMPBELL
dcampbell@durhamregion.com

UXBRIDGE -- Imagine downtown Uxbridge under more than seven feet of water. It could happen during a major storm, one similar to Hurricane Hazel that swept through

the area in 1954, and local officials are trying to finally find a solution. The main issue is the Brock Street culvert, a 200-metre structure that carries the Uxbridge Brook northwards through the downtown. According to various studies the culvert is deficient and would cause a bottleneck dur-

ing a severe flood. "A flood would devastate this part of the downtown," said Tom Fowle, chairman of the Uxbridge Watershed Advisory Committee. "Who knows how long it would take to recover?"

See UXBRIDGE page 5

TS HAIR STUDIO
Customers for their support over the

CANADIAN TIRE

EXTRA, EXTRA watch

NEWS

Uxbridge hosts meeting to discuss flood measures

UXBRIDGE from page 1

He added flood of that nature could cause approximately \$15 million in damages to the downtown.

Since downtown flooding is not an insurable risk the loss in damages would have to be covered by property owners, added Mr. Fowle.

Identified as a flood risk in 1983, the Brock Street culvert is made up of nine different sections that encloses the Uxbridge Brook between Centennial Drive and a parking lot north of Brock Street.

It was installed in sections over the years, with one portion containing a stone archway believed to be from the late 19th century, noted Ben Kester, Uxbridge's director of public works.

In the event of a regional storm, one that would last about 12 hours and have a maximum intensity of 53 millimetres of rain per hour and a total rainfall of 212 millimetres, water levels would nearly reach the rooftops of some downtown buildings, said Mr. Fowle.

In front of the youth centre near Brock and Toronto streets, which is the lowest point in downtown Uxbridge, water levels could reach 2.3 metres in the case of a severe flood.

There is currently a yellow ribbon tagged to a lamp post in front of the youth centre to indicate how high the water would reach.

In addition to avoiding massive property damage, Mr. Fowle noted the benefits of alleviating the flood risk include preventing potential loss of life or injury as well as removing downtown property development restrictions that are in place because of the issue.

The environmental assessment process on the culvert began last August and the first public information centre was held in November 2010.

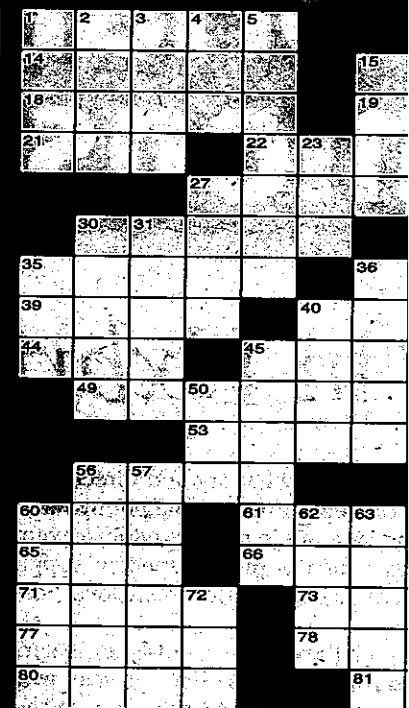
The first public information centre was poorly attended and Mr. Fowle emphasized the importance of all residents getting involved because a downtown flood would affect all of Uxbridge.

"We hope to engage the public and get people involved in the process," he said.


The information centre will present findings from studies done on the downtown flooding issue and review solutions being considered. Officials from the Township and Region will be on hand to answer questions.

Residents and business owners are encouraged to attend and offer their insights on Nov. 2, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 51 Toronto St. S.


Uxbridge



- ACROSS**
- 1. Skinny one
 - 6. Junk e-mail
 - 10. Raffle bird
 - 14. South American raccoon
 - 15. Daze
 - 17. Fender flaw
 - 18. Promo producers
 - 19. Danger
 - 20. And
 - 21. Corded fabric
 - 22. Spout
 - 24. "___ Is Your Life"
 - 26. Unit of length
 - 27. Cat's call
 - 28. Feudal lord
 - 29. "Home Again" addition
 - 30. Mix thoroughly
 - 32. Young fish
 - 33. Shopper's bag
 - 35. Hurl
 - 36. Barnyard sound
 - 37. Rosier
 - 39. Maui feast
 - 40. Maidenhair
 - 41. Angry
 - 44. Coffee container
 - 45. Shuttle's domain
 - 47. Bro. to Sis
 - 49. Creal
 - 51. Little bit
 - 52. Harmony
 - 53. Acquaintances
 - 54. Big Band, e.g.
 - 55. "Beetle Bailey" s
 - 56. Prudish
 - 58. Pismire
 - 59. African animal,
 - 60. Take legal action
 - 61. Suit
 - 64. Old stringed inst
 - 65. Gridiron org.
 - 66. Skunk's defense
 - 67. Ballerina's short
 - 68. Jabber
 - 71. Off yonder
 - 73. Stringed instrume
 - 75. Loomed up
 - 77. New York ___
 - 78. Intertwine
 - 79. Fortress
 - 80. Patefella location
 - 81. Beginner
 - 82. Elaborate display



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Flood control could change face of downtown

by Roger Varley

Uxbridge residents were given five different approaches to preparing for the "200-year storm" at a public open house Nov. 2.

The well-attended open house showed alternatives ranging from merely enlarging the culvert that carries the Uxbridge Brook under Brock Street between Toronto and Main Streets to removal of many of the buildings between Bascom Street and Toronto Street.

Whatever approach is eventually taken, it will be costly. The suggested costs of the alternatives ranged from approximately \$1 million to \$5 million.

The first suggested approach is to

enlarge the culvert. On the plus side, this would open the downtown area to more development: on the minus side it would involve the removal of some buildings on Brock, or at least their basements. The cost would be about \$3.5 million.

The second approach would be to open the brook through the downtown and install a bridge on Brock Street. Such a move would see the removal of the stores now located between Rush Photo and the Kidsignment store. Cost: \$5 million.

The third proposal would see buildings removed and the culvert left in place: this would allow any flood waters to flow through the downtown core. Cost: \$1 million.

Option Number Four calls for a

system of overflow pipes along Bascom Street to carry any flood waters past the downtown core. This would cost about \$4 million.

The final option would see a variety of undertakings, including widening the present flood plain through excavation, installing larger culverts and the removal of one or two streets, all at a cost of about \$3 million.

The team involved in the planning, consisting of representatives from the Region, the Township, the Uxbridge watershed committee and consultants SRM Associates, offered as their preferred solution a combination of options 1, 2 and 5 at a cost of between \$3 million and \$5 million.

Although the public were invited

to comment on the proposals presented, the final display board might have left some confused. It laid out the steps that will now be taken to bring the project to fruition. The first step, it stated, would be to examine the public comments. The second step, however, would be to "confirm the preferred alternative", leaving some wondering what was the point of soliciting comments.

Whatever approach is taken, the experts said some action is needed to prepare for what is termed "a regional storm", something they say is statistically certain within the next 200 years. Such a storm, they say, could leave Brock Street under seven feet of water and Centennial Park under 18 feet of water if no improvements are made to the current watercourse.

Maria Guido, owner of the building that houses Mondo hair-salo and Kidsignment, said some of the proposals were hard to absorb.

"I've just finished a lot of work on my building," she said, "and my basement is dry." Her building sits almost directly above the culvert.

John Rodych, owner of Uxbridge Shoe Repair, took a pragmatic approach after viewing the displays. "I'll have to wait and see what happens," he said. "What happens, happens."

Public Works director Ben Kestel said it likely will be some time in January before any decisions are made on what approach to take.

Uxbridge talks flood risk

Nov. 2 information session attracts large crowd

JENNIFER WALKER

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UXBRIDGE — Should a major storm descend on Uxbridge, residents could see themselves floating in seven feet of water.

In 1954 Hurricane Hazel crashed through the area, leaving her mark of devastation. If a similar storm should reoccur, the current Brock Street culvert means the town of Uxbridge could be recovering for years.

Officials are trying to find a solution and on Nov. 2 a public downtown flood information centre was held. According to the Uxbridge Watershed Committee chairman Tom Fowle, the turnout was surprisingly good.

The evening was set up by project consultants SRM Associates and was presented by the Township. Large display boards were set up around the council chambers, showing various plans, solutions, costs and ideas.

The main concern and possible cause of major flooding is the Brock Street culvert,

which stretches more than 200 metres and carries the Uxbridge Brook north through the downtown core. According to various studies, the culvert is deficient and could cause a bottleneck during a serve storm.

"This is a major and important project," said Mr. Fowle.

The project cannot proceed until an Environmental Assessment is complete, which is expected to be done by June. Funding will have to then be obtained but Mr. Fowle explained that the project plans are too preliminary to estimate a cost. Detailed engineering and design will follow. If the Environmental Assessment is completed by next summer, Mr. Fowle said, the project could be completed two to three years later.

At the public information centre held last week, the displays offered some insight into five different plans to resolve the problem. Ideas include the removal and replacement of the entire existing culvert, construction of an open channel to convey regional storm flows, new bridges, demolition of multiple buildings and more. A preferred alternative was also presented.

Another public information session is expected in the spring. For more information on upcoming meetings, call Mr. Kester at 905-852-9181.