

March 24, 2022

Submission to Council Regarding Flood Relief and Inflow and Infiltration Program

My name is Thomas Ellis, my wife Carolyn Ellis and I reside at [REDACTED] Fraser Crescent, Craigleith.

Beginning on September 22, 2021, around 8:00 pm we found our finished lower level flooding with sewage water. In shock we contacted the local Fire Department who responded and told us to stay out of our lower level for fear of electrocution. We experienced contamination to our finished lower level with extensive damage. This has been documented numerous times in an incident report and uploaded photos and video submitted to the Town (Ellis Photo Report 143670) -1.pdf. I recently contacted the Deputy Mayor, Peter Bordignon by cell phone. He sympathized with our situation and stated that he could not discuss details.

The Town insists on calling this a "rain event". Where is the data to support the Town's position that the rainfall on Sept. 22-23, 2021 was a 100+ year storm event? For many of our neighbors on Fraser Crescent the event is the Town's sewage pump failures at the Lakeshore Pumping Station in Craigleith. The Co-Operators Insurance Company provides a personalized risk assessment for water/ septic/ sewer risk at our address. It considers our sewage risk to be low. The cause of our sewage flooding was the failure of both Town pumps which caused sewage to back up into our home through the drains. We have never before had a flood. There was no overland water entering our house and there hasn't been any for the 21 years we have lived at our residence. Are the Town's sewage pumps prepared to handle another heavy rainfall in the future? Will the Town rely upon residents' insurance companies to cover the costs associated with the sewer pumps' failures?

I find the proposal to be woefully unacceptable. The \$20,000 relief amount divided over the affected households is insulting and totally inadequate. The process timeline is too short and is designed as a first come first served basis. This is unfair.

We have been displaced from using more than half of our house since September 22 and our repairs are still not completed. We are unable to use our garage because it is filled with storage containers, building materials and tools. Our current accommodation is one bedroom, one bathroom, and a living/dining/kitchen space. Another bedroom is now used as storage of our belongings. We have therefore been displaced from 3 bedrooms, a bathroom, our family room, an office area, our laundry and utility room. If that isn't displaced, I don't know what is. No family or friends can visit. We were without hot water and heat for over a month. We had to go elsewhere for showers and laundry. We had to boil water for domestic use.

A backflow prevention valve has been installed in the sewer pipe coming from our home at great expense to us. Will the Town reimburse those of us who have already had them installed? Has the Town repaired/improved the Craigleith sewage pumps so a similar failure does not reoccur? Have maintenance and repair reports for the Craigleith Pumping Station been submitted indicating need for repairs or replacement of the pumps?

Our total insurance claim is over \$100,000. Our costs are greater because of insurance deductible, depreciation of contents and increased costs of materials and labour.

None of the damages, hardships and displacement in our home is due to anything we have done or not done as homeowners. The failure of the Town's pumps is responsible for this. Have our elected officials effectively "lawyered up"? Are you following strategies outlined by the Town's insurance representatives to avoid taking responsibility for the failure of the Town's sewage pumps?

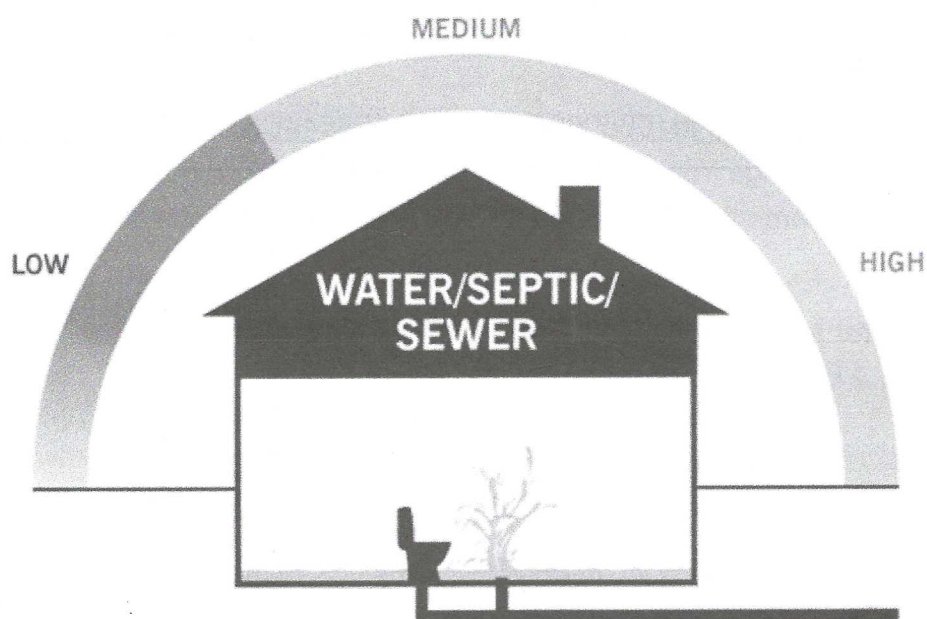
Respectfully submitted by,

Thomas and Carolyn Ellis

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**Here is your personalized risk assessment.**



**YOUR WATER/SEPTIC/SEWER RISK: LOW**



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info@wbplumbing.ca

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## SUMMARY SHEET

Date: Nov 29/21  
Tech: ADAM BAC / BRENNAN  
Customer: CAROLYN ELLIS  
Address: [REDACTED] FRASER CRES.  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Invoice # : \_\_\_\_\_

### OBSERVATION

LOCATED SEWER LINE. DOG UP WITH EXCAVATOR  
INSTALLED SERVICEABLE BACK WATER VALVE. BACKFILLED  
WITH NATIVE MATERIAL.

ST \$3500<sup>00</sup>

HST \$455<sup>00</sup>

TOTAL \$3955<sup>00</sup>

Deposit \$1700<sup>00</sup>

BALANCE OWING \$2255<sup>00</sup> INC TAX

pd  
Nov 29, 2021

Option # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signatures

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Balance \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signatures

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date