

## **Mayor Lucas Cleveland asked " Is there an incentive to reduce storm water, and if not, why not?"**

The new bylaw for storm management fees is based on size of property. This is the WRONG direction. The purpose of this delegation is to propose a much better direction for our town. Stormwater management fees must not be based on property size but must offer residents, town employees and businesses financial incentives for using low impact development. For example, planting trees in the best places for effective reduction of storm water runoff.

Low impact development, LID, means using nature to slope land to both reduce flooding and to store water where needed. Hard surfaces such as roofs, pavement and cement all increase storm water runoff and open us to climate change flooding. LID includes trees as cooling agents in our summers of increasing drought and add safety and beauty to our tourist town.

Cobourg is on 7 creek floodplains and the Lake Ontario floodplain. We need to protect all our properties from flooding. The federal government is to offer \$1.6 billion in climate resilience grants, including coastal grants. We are on the coast of Lake Ontario which has international borders.

The federal government is also giving one time grants for green infrastructure projects. King St. West is slated for sewer replacement next June. Now is the time to apply for this grant to replace sewers at the end of their life cycle. You have to see 3 minute video StormTree [Thinking Outside the Concrete Box](#). This is green storm management integrated with trees. Cobourg has a small staff and needs all the available supports.

Therefore, staff can use free of charge asset training <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/stormwater-management-and-green-infrastructure-research> with post secondary student research.

### **BEST PRACTICES**

If stormwater management included financial credits for those with trees, rainbarrels, infiltration galleries, soakaway pits, dry wells, rain gardens etc, Cobourgers would have real reasons to learn and adapt to climate resilience. Philadelphia and Waterloo have credit offsite purchase programs and there are adaptations for smaller communities like ours. We need to look at best practices.

The town of Cobourg needs to model LID on its own properties and explain to Cobourg how this protects the environment and reduces stormwater usage. The town could save money and better still save our town from flooding. Philadelphia "[Green City, Clean Waters](#)" promotes the use of green stormwater infrastructure throughout. These green tools use plants, trees and stone to filter, store and manage stormwater in a smart and cost-effective way. "Philadelphia has 12 green stormwater tools, of which 1 is explained here: <https://water.phila.gov/gsi/tools/>

## Permeable Paving

“Permeable pavement allows water to soak through the surface rather than flow over the surface and into storm drains. This system provides the structural support of conventional pavement but also has an underground stone reservoir.”

Great news is that Cobourg already has permeable paving off the Marina parking lot. Bad news is Cobourg is talking about replacing the broken cobblestone pavers on the east beach with cement, which is one of the worst materials for the environment. Permeable paving can work, especially on this floodplain and be accessible for walking. Public Works must be given the tools and support to line up with Council goals.

Water rates increase 7.2% this January. Now is the time to tell us how to conserve water. For example, rather than watering plants from your tap, use the water you boiled your veggies in. Installing rainbarrels in the spring, ordering trees to be planted.

## Bill 23 Implications

Anne Taylor Scott, Director of Planning, reported on how Bill 23 eliminates the environmental review and protections for requiring sustainable development. Yikes. It also removes the developer's duty to pay for stormwater management, parkland, and roads. Less parkland means less protection for our watershed. It also means if you increase stormwater fees based solely on size of property, there is no correlation with actual storm water runoff.

## New Green Management Tools: Integrated Cobourg Sustainability Plan (ICSP), Green Development Standard (GDS)

Last Wednesday, at Cobourg Sustainability's "Integrated Cobourg Sustainability plan" ICSP, Anne Taylor Scott gave a presentation. The "ICSP 'integrates low impact 'design principles into the neighbourhood planning process.' Green Development Standard includes storm water management and water conservation. Anne explained that both plans will be introduced to council in 2023.

Cobourg is not ready to deal with the environmental devastation of Bill 23, nor implementation of the ICSP, GDS. These criteria should be used in determining stormwater management and fees.

Therefore, we cannot do stormwater management, and fees, until we have the green infrastructure criteria from the ICP and GDS. These green standards can educate us how to do low impact development. Let the rainwater run where we need it to, without flooding our town.

## Summary Recommendations

1. Get the ICSP and GDS working on low impact development which reduces the amount of stormwater runoff. Educate all, including planting native trees, ordering rain barrels for spring.
2. That you delay changing Storm Management Fees until you have had a chance to look at best practices, such as Philadelphia's, for green development which can be adapted to smaller communities like Cobourg. Then, you can implement green incentives to lower taxes. Get the green infrastructure grant and use King St. W sewers as a pilot, as did Kitchener.
3. The Council needs to champion this cause, along with town management to create goals and incentives for citizens, businesses and employees of the town. Will this Council step up to be champion of ICSP and GDS?