



Belfountain Conservation Area Dam and Headpond Class Environmental Assessment – Preferred Alternative

Located in Belfountain Conservation Area, in the Town of Caledon, the Belfountain Dam and Headpond were originally constructed by Charles W. Mack the early 1900's. While a smaller mill dam already existed in the same area, Mack built the Belfountain dam to resemble a miniature Niagara Falls and complement the gardens, stonework and other follies he built onsite, such as a replica Yellowstone cave.

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) acquired the Belfountain dam and headpond in 1959 when it purchased the property. A study completed in 2013 revealed various structural issues with the dam and concluded that the dam does not meet provincial standards for safety. The headpond associated with the dam has various environmental impacts, including contributing to the warming of downstream river habitat and preventing the transportation of sediment.

In the spring of 2015 CVC formally launched a Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) to determine a preferred alternative to the problem of flooding caused by the potential failure of the dam. The goal of the Class EA is to identify a solution that will address the problem of a potentially unsafe structure while aligning with CVC's objectives for the area, which include (in no specific order):

- Reduce risk to visitors, staff and downstream property
- Promote natural stream function
- Conserve and enhance natural heritage attributes
- Maintain a barrier between upstream brook trout and downstream non-native and invasive species
- Maintain or improve the visitor experience
- Conserve and enhance cultural heritage attributes
- Strive for long-term sustainability including economic viability

The Preferred Alternative was determined based on comments and input from the public, our Stakeholder Advisory Committee and our agency partners. It was identified as the alternative which best met CVC's objectives for the site.



Preferred Alternative: lower the spillway, backfill the headpond and naturalize the river

BrookMcIlroy/
Option D4H5
Lower the Spillway, Backfill the
Headpond and Construct Channel

The preferred alternative identified in the Class EA includes:

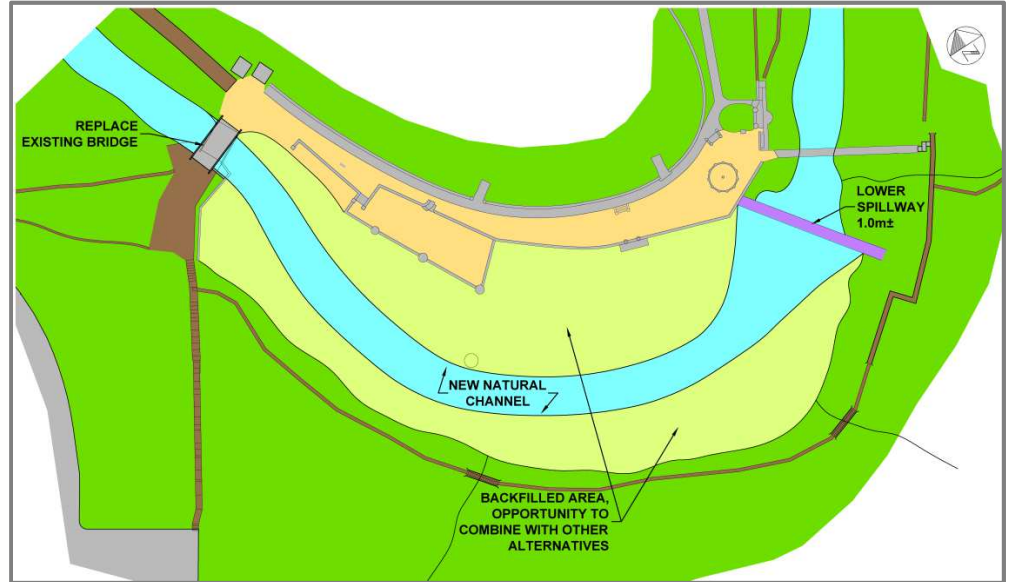
- Lowering the dam by approximately 1 metre
- Repair the dam
- Backfilling the headpond
- Creating a natural channel

The removal of the headpond will address many environmental concerns. Although it will be lowered, the heritage dam will remain and be restored to its historic width.

Additional consultation will be required to determine how the preferred alternative will be implemented.

We need your feedback to determine:

- What is the best use for the new greenspace?
- What visitor services will be required?
- What naturalization efforts should be considered?
- How should implementation be communicated?



CVC will be hosting a Public Consultation Session on Thursday, March 24th 2016, to present the Preferred Alternative and request public feedback.

Public Consultation Session

Where: Caledon Ski Club, 17431 Mississauga Rd. Caledon, ON

When: Thursday, March 24th, 2016

Time: 6pm – 9pm; presentation begins at 6:30pm

CVC invites you to participate. If you wish to be involved in this study, provide comments, ask questions, or receive information, please attend the public consultations session or contact one of the project representatives, below.

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