

Meeting Date: September 16, 2024
Department: Engineering & Public Works
Report No.: EPW-2024-68
Prepared by: Steve Morriss, Drainage Superintendent
Submitted by: Walter Easter, Manager of Public Works
Approved by: Trisha McKibbin, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: **Kovacs Drain Branches 2024 – Engineer Report Consideration Meeting**

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Council receive report EPW-2024-68 Kovacs Drain Branches 2024 for information, and further;

THAT: Council adopt the Engineers Report for the Kovacs Drain Branches 2024, and give first and second reading to provisional By-law #87-24 for the project.

BACKGROUND:

A Request for Major Drain Improvement was received by the Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc for the Kovacs Drain 1968 on May 26, 2023. Council accepted the request on June 5, 2023 and appointed Spriet Associates Ltd. to prepare the engineer's report.

The Kovacs Drain 1968 was originally constructed pursuant to a report prepared by Graham, Berman & Associates Ltd, dated January 26, 1968. The drain consisted of approximately 1,677 lineal meters of 300mm to 125mm tile and approximately 396 lineal meters of open ditch construction. The Bujnowski Branch is connected to the Toonen Branch approximately 44 meters north of the road where it continues southerly across Falconbridge to its head in the upstream farm.

Some time during 2021 during the installation of a new large diameter high-pressure gas line by Enbridge Gas, the culvert under Falconbridge Drive and a portion of the upstream concrete tile of the Bujnowski Branch was severely damaged. Upon request by one of the affected landowners, the Drainage Superintendent attended the site to investigate and confirmed the damage. The drain could not be repaired to its original design specifications therefore a temporary repair was put in place. In response to the damage incurred Enbridge Gas submitted a request for the improvement for the Bujnowski and Toonen Branches.

The required on site meeting was held on May 26, 2023 between the affected landowner, Enbridge staff and municipal staff. Landowners reported that they had not experienced any issues prior to the gas main installation down Falconbridge Drive. The engineer proceed with investigations existing

drain that day and with additional data collected on November 7, 2023. Site investigation revealed that the existing portions of the Bujnowski Branch and Toonen Branch are considerably undersized by today's standards but other than the damage created by the gas line installation, the rest of the drain appeared to be in working condition.

On January 29, 2024, the municipality held an informal public meeting to present the preliminary design and cost distribution prepared by the engineers to the assessed landowners and Enbridge staff where further input was provided at that time. Discussions between landowners, Enbridge staff, and the Drainage Superintendent continued through the following several months resulting in Enbridge Gas agreeing to cover all the project costs.

COMMENTS:

Municipal drains have been a fixture of rural Ontario's infrastructure since the 1800's. Most municipal drains were constructed to improve the drainage of agricultural land by serving as the discharge point for private agricultural tile drainage systems. However, they also remove excess water collected by roadside ditches, residential lots, institutions, industrial lands, commercial lands and any other properties in rural areas. Drains are a vital component of the local infrastructure. Without them, many areas of the rural area would be subjected to regular flooding, reduced production from agricultural land and increased public health risks.

Most municipal drains are constructed on private lands and each drain is adopted under a By-Law when established. The Drainage Act provides access for drainage to have a legal outlet. Downstream landowners must accept flow of water from upstream landowners and must not impede or block the flow of water. As a result, downstream drains are larger and deeper on abutting property owners. Upstream landowners must contribute to the costs of downstream landowners for the allowance of a legal outlet. The landowners including road authorities (municipalities) and public utilities (Hydro One, Union Gas), within the defined drainage watershed, contribute for the construction of the municipal drain and the on-going maintenance of the drain.

CONSULTATION:

This report was reviewed in consultation with:

- Manager of Public Works
- Spriet Associates Ltd.
- Enbridge Gas Ltd.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- Schedule B Cost Assessment included in the report.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

- **Local Infrastructure and Capital Investment:** Households and businesses in Strathroy-Caradoc are supported by reliable, financially responsible and well-maintained infrastructure networks.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Kovacs Drain Branches 2024 – Report, PLO & Profile - Spriet Associates Ltd.
- Provisional By-Law 87-24 – Kovacs Drain Branches 2024