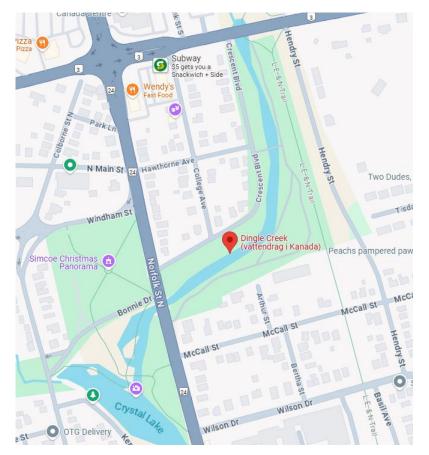
Dingle Creek "The Forever Drainage Project" or "How to Abuse the System"

The Dingle Creek Municipal Drain project, begun by petitions (4) around 2005 may someday be built... or not.



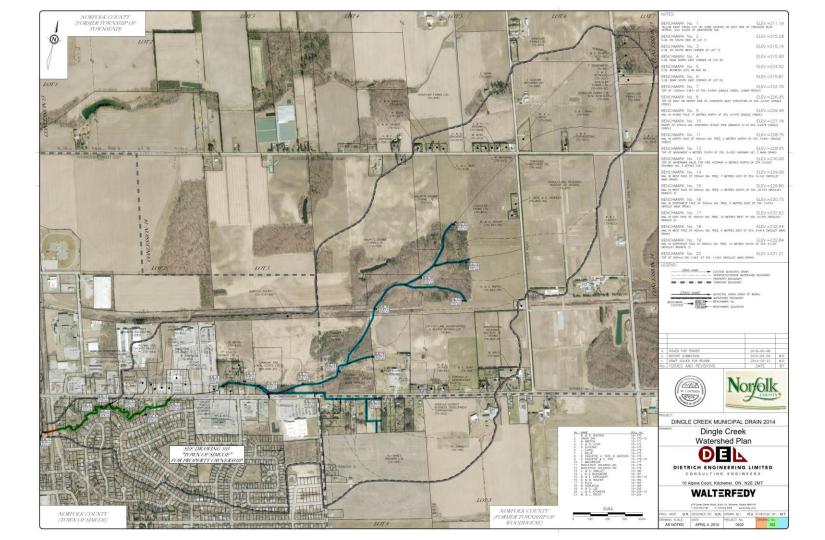
Commences in a wetland north of Highway 3

- -Two branches near the upper end provide outlet for small residential areas
 - -The major part of work is to improve the existing natural channel through a large residential area built without stormwater management facilities

-Erosion of the channel is substantial

Dingle Creek:

a small natural watercourse in the north part of Simcoe in Norfolk County. Watershed of nearly 1,000 acres, mixed uses, 500+ parcels



Bill Dietrich of Dietrich Engineering Ltd. appointed in 2005 to produce a report.

Report completed April 2014. Extensive enviro. and restoration work planned. Estimated cost 3.3 million

Prior to completion of report, Bill retained me as his lawyer in 2008, distinct from Norfolk's lawyer, as he anticipated trouble.

He was right.

Consideration of the report involved at least two large, raucous public meetings one year apart.

The statutory process to add or withdraw names from the petition(s) was conducted in private by the Clerk, based on privacy (and maybe intimidation) concerns.

Dietrich calculated the charges to each of the petitioners if the petition failed. After that process, petitions were declared valid

And then....

-Report adopted by provisional by-law

-Nine appeals to Court of Revision – denied

-Three late appeals - Court of Revision refused

-Four appeals filed with AFRAAT

-Allegations of negligence, malfeasance and failure to uphold s. 11 duty by one Appellant

-That appellant also filed an appeal to the Referee, s. 47

-That Appellant's net assessment was approx. \$(1000)

-October 2015 to January 2017

-Prehearing Conference at Referee

-Motion by Appellant to the Referee to recuse himself -Motion by Norfolk and Dietrich to dismiss the Motion and appeal succeeded

-Costs of \$19,000 awarded against Appellant -Court staff requested police officer attendance twice -in the meantime, Appellant ceased to be an owner of land in the watershed. County staff discovered that he had conveyed his property to his wife.

-He claimed the Family Law Act gave him a right of possession and he pays some bills, so he was still "an affected owner" under the Drainage Act.

-Wrong in law.

- His wife never participated in any process.

- He alleged assault by me, after his vocal cursing of me at the public meeting. Police were present. No charges.

- Tribunal dismissed his (her) appeal. He had walked out of the Hearing. See <u>Dingle Creek Municipal Drain (RE)</u>, 2018 ONAFRAAT 8 (CanLII). Big issue re Witness vs. Advocate

- Complaint by him to Law Society Ontario about me. No action.
- Two appeals to Divisional Court by him dismissed with costs.

- He is/ was suing two municipalities where he was formerly employed, plus some staff, council members and even some of their spouses. Outcome unknown

- When it was over, I delivered two Banker's Boxes of documents to my client, only a handful of which had anything to do with any legitimate dispute of the report

-Costs incurred were rather distressing – both via Dietrich to Norfolk for me, and Norfolk directly for their counsel

-I feel for the several hundred assessed owners who paid for all this unjustifiable legal process

-not sure of status of collection of cost awards

- last I knew the tender process had some delays and I am unsure whether the Drain is built yet.

Moral of the Story?

a legal system should be judged by how fairly it treats not only good persons with valid complaints, but how fairly it treats everyone, even the worst actors.
courts must give everyone a chance, but unfortunately there are a lot of "courts" and at times each starts over.

BUT

-courts should recognize, prevent and punish abuse of the Drainage Act system

-the fairness pendulum has swung too far

-the forgotten people are those assessed to pay all these costs. It is not the municipality.