

July 1, 2019

Dear Brockton Council. John Strader, and GM Blue Plan,
~ Mayor Peabody; Deputy Mayor Gieruszak; Councillor Oberle; Councillor Leifso;
Councillor Adams; Councillor Hutcheon; Councillor Lang; and Councillor Adams; Road
Superintendent - John Strader and John Slocumbe, GM Engineering

Re Bridge #11, Greenock (Brockton)

Brockton's Vision - *We are a proud rural community strengthened by a
balance of social equity, culture, environmental integrity,
and progressive economic development.*

Recently we received a letter from GM Blue Plan in Owen Sound requesting comments?
about the recent council and recommendation of GM to remove Bridge #11, Greenock
(Brockton) ALWAYS known as Watsons Bridge. I will make comments to remind you ALL
of the impact on the north part of Brockton regarding your decision. Not sure, at this
point, why you request comments but we have seen how our new council 'can change their
mind', and over rule a motion made in June 2017, so perhaps ALL is not lost..... yet!?

*In 1905, Reeve Fullerton explained to the Council that after examining the site for the
bridge in high water, he considered it necessary to build a bridge 100 feet long. The
tender of Hamilton Bridge Co. was accepted to tender a steel bridge 100 feet long with 14
foot roadway for the sum of \$1,350.00. (making it \$11.85 each year for 114 years!!!). No
doubt a very good long term investment!!!!!!*

Thankfully, Reeve Fullerton and his council saw the importance of building the bridge. Our
Reeve saw the need for the bridge in 1905, and we have been appreciative of the thinking
of the Greenock Township Council every day since, and especially in the winter weather
with many people using this bridge, safely, for the last 114 years!

I do have some questions:

1. I am wondering where the alternate route will be for those people living on Bruce
Road 1, who use Concession 20/2A on a daily basis, in the winter? Each of you know,
though not one of you have experienced, that the Baseline from Concession 22 to
Concession 20 is impassable often during the winter. The snow blowing over the
banks, the drifts, the visibility and the record for the tallest snowbank makes
travel impossible, for safety sake. What is your planned alternate route?
2. We worry about the safety of our neighbours in that area with the need for a fire
truck, ambulance or police and the boundary is not accessible. What is your
recommendation, keeping in mind, that in an emergency situation, and every minute
DOES count! It may only take a few minutes to travel an extra few miles, but it
may take an extra hour or two in the middle of a snowstorm as was found to be the

case in January 2019 when there was a chimney fire on the baseline, taking over three hours to travel from concession 22 south on the baseline, travelling the distance of three farms!!!! Coming in from Concession 2a/22 would have brought the fire truck closer to the fire, and the road at the section isn't as heavily drifted), with a snowblower going ahead of the snowplow, and we are thankful that no lives were lost and the house was saved, something to be quite thankful for! And perhaps something not one of had thought about!?

3. Reviewing the Council reports, I read, with great interest, the April 19, 2017 report from Colin Saunders with the recommendation of **Option A complete replacement - \$1,013,870. = 75 year service life**. If the Municipality wishes to maintain this river crossing, and permanent structure is not a viable option, then we recommend that the Municipality select Option 'A'. The proposed construction would address all of the structural issues with the bridge, as well as provide the Municipality with the least costly alternative over the long run.

Read it over, there is a detailed list and specifically noting that it would cost \$45,000 to remove and dispose the existing structure....WOW the costs have increased steadily to remove a bridge in this area! Also, noting an \$86,170. contingency in that quote/estimate.

4. GM Blue Plan returned in May 2017 with these quotes:
Option A - Single span, single lane \$1,000,000) BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
Option B/C - single span, two lane \$1,070,000)
Bridge removal - \$150,000 to \$200,000.?
5. **June 5, 2017 - Brockton Council** (council consisting of Mayor David Inglis; Deputy Mayor Dan Gieruszak; Councillors Steve Adams; Chris Oberle; Bill Bell, Chris Peabody and Dean Liefso) voted and approves construction of Bridge 11, Concession 20. The goal of this construction is to completely replace the existing structure and all of its elements with a structure of similar geometry, which meets the Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code. The new structure would be of similar structure and would not be widened to allow for two lanes and the appropriate curbs and guiderails.

And it was learned with the \$1,013,817 price tag of the replacement of Bridge #11, John Strader informed council that \$500,000 had been set aside from gas tax refund for the bridge!! WHAT has happened with that money? I am sure it is still sitting in an account awaiting the start of the bridge!!!!????

The night of June 5th, 2017, it was questioned a two lane bridge, where costs were going to be looked into. But why, unknown to us, the cost for a two lane bridge had already been received a few weeks before? Surely, our Council would remember that, or perhaps it just slipped their mind?

NOT SURE WHY THINGS DIDN'T START AT THAT POINT..... recommendation received, council voted; NOTHING DONE? Perhaps that is why we are sitting exactly

where we are now? Tell me, what happened? I have heard it said that staff did not proceed, but why not? Because staff did not proceed, no one asked, inquired, questioned, as to the status of the new bridge? Thanks, what a fine job on behalf of Brockton Council, always seemingly looking out for the residents in North Brockton!

Check back on your records, and on line, that each time GM Blue Plan comes back with a quote it increases significantly..... now in 2019 we are up to \$3,000,000 for a bridge compared to April 2017's quote.

6. November 15, 2018 - Brockton Council wondered if Bruce County Council would accept section of Concession 20/2A and the Greenock Bridge #11, as is. Our Council was informed that it would cost a minimum of \$2,000,000 (\$850,000 road; and \$1,200,000 bridge) building the road up to county standard. County Council refused this offer, showing Brockton Council, that County Council are no fools, and reminding us all that Brockton WOULD never have kept the Baseline open from Concession 20 to Concession 22!!!!!!

7. I have reviewed the Municipality of Brockton Policy #2000-05. Winter Maintenance in Brockton. It is the policy of the municipality of Brockton that The Municipality of Brockton establish a desirable level of service for winter maintenance on rural roads and urban streets. The Municipality will attempt to attain snow packed conditions on municipal gravel and hard surfaced roads within 24 hours after the end of a snow storm.

The level of service for winter maintenance on municipal roads has a major impact on the economy and quality of life for residents;

The first priority of the Works Department will be to keep the roads open for the passage of emergency vehicles, commercial vehicles, school buses and people travelling to and from work;

That since the highest traffic usage occurs between the hours of 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. the Works Department will utilize the majority of its snow clearing resources in these hours;

That the Works Department shall attempt to plow all roads (one lane) at least once prior to 7 a.m.

That when a storm begins after 5 p.m., no plowing will take place until the next morning, unless an emergency situation arises. The road will be plowed in an emergency situation.

**** often Brockton snowplow, on 5th sideroad and Concession 22 Greenock is not here in record time. Currently many mornings roads in north Brockton are not plowed by 7 a.m. And often the school bus has difficulty travelling Concession 22. By 7 a.m., our laneway is usually snow blown, but vehicles follow the tracks through, on Concession 22, made by a**

tractor, and vehicles are often found stuck on the road before the plow arrives, and often not just one or two have been stuck before the plow arrives.

****Bridge #11** is used exclusively in the winter, as the Baseline South is not winter maintained and would that make this area of Brockton not easily accessible in the winter.

8. I question how our new council, elected in October 2018, can vote down a motion already passed by Brockton Council in June 2017. Your disrespect for both the former council and our residents will be remembered. We had questioned a two lane bridge, and wonder if the cost of \$3M is for the two lane or one lane bridge, and if it is for a two lane bridge, can we inquire to the cost of a one lane bridge. Please see the cost in April 2017 for a replacement bridge.

I realize it is a huge cost, but please remember, we have a healthy financial start of \$500,000 from the gas tax refund sitting waiting for us! And due to the inability to hear much of anything on May 28th, we did not hear how much it would cost to borrow the money. I would be interested to know that.

Out of curiosity, I am wondering if the cost for the soccer fields was so closely monitored when Brockton Council **borrowed money**, for a a soccer field, and I hope that you figured out the cost to repay back PLUS interest of course. Begrudgingly for our household, we will be left, like all taxpayers, to pay back what we have borrowed for the soccer field. A soccer field, that was not needed, wanted, and was too costly to begin with when soccer fields were already available in Walkerton and Cargill. There were alternatives, but not as glorious as what was requested and built!

Sadly, very sadly, on May 28th, 2019 Brockton Council met and voted 4-3 to remove Bridge 11 GREENOCK, with the following votes - Yes - Adams, Lang, Leifso, and Peabody; and No - Gierusak, Hutcheon and Oberle.....

However, it is never to late to rethink your positions, and please let me know your plan of action for the safety of all residents in our area, and Brockton. You must have some ideas of how people are to travel safely in the winter. You all know the area, or do you?

I've been told, it was a difficult decision..... I don't really know how difficult it was for all of you, **the decision had been made, for you**, in June 2017, and was mysteriously revisited, and didn't need to be in May 2019. There really was no decision for any of you to make.....

9. I've been told that Council has no money and that with no infastructure planning done, in the past, that the bridge could not proceed. OKAY, BUT with the 5.5% increase in my taxes, with more going to infastructure, when Brockton does have the money, can we be first on the list to receive a new bridge on this current site?

Finally, we are happy not to have a walking bridge.... going nowhere at a big cost!, and please do not go to any added expense, block the road however you do it, and leave it, we don't

want you spending extra money on something we don't want/need. (I'll bet you don't hear that often)

AND a final thank you to all but one of you, you didn't campaign last fall at all, or much, and many of the residents in this area, north Brockton, have made that comment. One councillor elect said they were too busy to do any campaigning, so seeing and hearing that, perhaps many of you are too busy to be on council?

Thank you, once again, for reading my letter to you, and hopefully each of you will answer my questions, and we can finally understand what has happened to Bridge #11 Greenock.

Mary Teeple and Sharon Teeple
Brockton Ratepayers.