

Remarks – Fort Creek Aqueduct Funding Announcement

July 2nd, 2015 – 11:00 A.M.

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good morning everyone and thank you for joining us today for this exciting and positive announcement.

As you can tell by the dollar figures involved and as alluded to by our earlier speakers, the replacement of the Fort Creek aqueduct is a major infrastructure project. The irony of course, is that when the work is done, the completed aqueduct will be underground, out of sight, and out of mind for most residents.

However, as most of us know, just because something is not visible doesn't mean it is not important. The Fort Creek aqueduct is one of the vital organs of our City's infrastructure and it is a key component of our flood control system.

The current aqueduct has outlived its useful life. In fact, it is so old that our engineers are not even completely certain of its age! The new aqueduct will have a larger capacity and will serve the City well for many decades.

The City has been putting aside two million dollars each year in the capital works budget to cover our one-third share of the design and construction costs. As the City has no core funding for aqueducts, the financial support of the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario for this project is very significant and most welcome.

To that point, today's announcement has been made possible by officials and staff from all three levels of government working together. It shows again the benefits that result from taking a collaborative approach. I would like to thank our federal and provincial funding partners on this project. I also want to recognize our local representatives, MP Bryan Hayes and the Honourable Minister David Oraziotti, for their support and advocacy on this file and for all of their on-going work on behalf of the community.

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge the employees from our City's Engineering Department who have done so much work on the funding applications and the planning for this project.

In particular, I want to recognize Don Elliott, Benita Brogno and Carl Rumiell for their efforts – and if I have inadvertently missed anyone I would ask that my thanks be passed on to them as well. We are fortunate enough to have Don Elliott on-hand today and he will be able to answer any technical questions about the project that members of the media may have.

Thank you again to everyone for taking the time to attend today's announcement. This is excellent news for our City and it is great to know that this important project will be coming to fruition.

Thank you.