

Brent & Ellen Gilkes



September 2, 2021

Municipality of West Grey

402813 Grey Road 4, RR 2

Durham On N0G 1R0

Attention: Mayor Christine Robinson & Council Members

RE: Extreme Weather – Torrential Rain Storm – August 7, 2021

Mayor Robinson:

This letter is in regards to the torrential rain storm which occurred in our township on August 7, 2021.

The storm water overflowed the town owned culvert behind residences located on Chester St W causing the field behind the residences (which is the future location of the new police station) and several residential backyards to be flooded. I have attached photos of the flooding along with this letter/email. The photos show the flooding in the field behind as well as the backyards of homes on each side of ours as well as our backyard.

This is not the first time the culvert has overflowed causing flooding into the field and private backyards. Eleven years ago the same flooding occurred, however it was not as extreme and only caused damage outside of our home.

Unfortunately, this time we were not as lucky, our sump pump could not keep up with the amount of water and our basement was flooded. This has caused damage to our furnishings, drywall and all of our flooring needs to be replaced. Our basement is currently ripped apart with some of our contents in storage with the restoration company and other items are housed in our garage, spare rooms, dining room etc. We are fortunate that we have insurance coverage for our loss.

Extreme weather events are no longer an exception, and are becoming more common, in view of this our concerns are two-fold.

We would like the culvert to be reviewed and upgrades/changes be made as required, we do not feel the culvert is performing as it should and therefore when we get a heavy rainstorm it cannot contain or move the water flow which is causing the water to breach the sides and the result is flooding to the surrounding area.

We would also like to see a study done prior to building the new police station to ensure that the station will not further impact the property causing more stress on the culvert and thereby causing more flooding with less severe weather.

We called the clerk's office & Brent spoke with Vance Czerwinski (the Director of Infrastructure & Public Works) regarding this matter, and Steve Ayerhart (Supervisor, Urban Operations Infrastructure & Public Works) attended our location and looked at the culvert and took photos. We also emailed Mr Ayerhart the same photos which are attached in this email. They both have a good understanding of our concerns.

We appreciate your time to look into this matter for us and look forward to hearing from someone from the township regarding this matter.

If this is not the way to submit our concerns to yourself and Council please advise how we should proceed.

Thank you for your anticipated assistance,

Brent & Ellen Gilkes