



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Landowner found Guilty of Watercourse Interference: Fined, Restoration Ordered

On November 29, 2016, a Centre Hastings landowner was fined \$99,000 and ordered to complete restoration work for illegally constructing a dam and interfering with a watercourse.

Justice of the Peace Ernie Parsons found Kevin Strong of Part Lot 12, Concession 7 within the Municipality of Centre Hastings guilty of constructing an unauthorized dam and altering a watercourse. He was fined \$99,000 and ordered to remove the dam and berm structure and restore the watercourse, a small tributary to Rawdon Creek. The charges were laid under the Conservation Authorities Act and the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act.

Both Lower Trent Conservation and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry provided evidence in court that, between January 2010 and May 2013, Mr. Strong constructed a dam and large pond in a wetland on his property near Moreland Lake, significantly altering the watercourse. This work was conducted without any permits or approvals from Lower Trent Conservation or the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, any development activities in environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, watercourses or shorelines require a permit from Lower Trent Conservation.

Through Ontario Regulation 163/06 (Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation), Lower Trent Conservation strives to ensure that development will not be impacted by flooding or erosion problems and that new development does not aggravate flooding problems upstream or downstream. Other matters taken into consideration before issuing a permit include water quality and quantity, destruction of fish and wildlife habitat, and impacts to nearby properties.

“We encourage prospective buyers, landowners or developers to get in touch with us prior to any nearshore or in-water work so that flooding or erosion issues associated with watercourses, flood plains, wetlands, steep slopes, inland lakes/ponds, and Lake Ontario/Bay of Quinte shoreline are considered,” says Janet Noyes, Manager - Development Services & Water Resources. “It’s in everyone’s best interest.”

Anyone seeking information about environmentally sensitive features on a particular property prior to purchase or development activities can submit a property inquiry online at www.ltc.on.ca, or contact Lower Trent Conservation to discuss their proposal at 613-394-4829.

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For more information, contact:

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