



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the General Committee

From: Ilmar Simanovskis, Commissioner, Municipal Operations

Meeting Date: August 5, 2025

Report: Request for Additional Funds for Future Monitoring of Jackson Creek, Report MOENV25-003

Subject

A report to update Council of the emergency measures taken to remediate Jackson Creek and to advise on required funding for continuing the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) advised monitoring, and reporting requirements.

Recommendations

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report MOENV25-003, dated August 05, 2025, of the Commissioner, Municipal Operations as follows:

- a) That the purchase order issued to Cambium Inc. for the work outlined in the initial approval report IPSES23-015 be increased by \$290,000 plus HST of \$37,000 to provide ongoing groundwater and surface water monitoring and reporting for a five-year period concluding December 31, 2029.
- b) That a budget of \$200,000 plus HST of \$26,000 be approved to identify and implement a continuous oil sheen detection system at the confluence of Jackson Creek and the Jackson Creek bypass sewer for real time monitoring and alarming of petroleum products that may enter the water course.

Executive Summary

- On August 22, 2022, an oily sheen on Little Lake was reported to City Staff and the MECP.

- The source of the discharge was determined to be historical contamination predominantly from the City Bus Garage on the north side of Townsend Street, after which remedial measures and monitoring stations were installed and mitigate any discharges.
- Work has been completed to contain and clean up contamination released to the culvert, control the contamination and prevent further releases. There is a requirement for ongoing monitoring, evaluation and reporting to the MECP until such time that they are satisfied with the stability and protection of the area.
- The initial Emergency Procurement was approved by Council through Report IPSES23-015 dated June 12, 2023.
- There is a need to continue with routine inspections of the site, surface and ground water sampling, monitoring and evaluation of the continued effectiveness of remedial actions and reporting of the MECP.
- The event at the Jackson Creek outlet to Little Lake in spring 2025 was found to be unrelated to the 2022 incident. On June 2, 2025, Hydro One stated that on May 29, 2025, it discovered a mineral spill at its Aylmer Distribution Station in Peterborough that was the result of damage from metal theft which caused mineral oil to leak from equipment. Some of the released mineral oil entered Little Lake through the sewer system, Hydro One stated.

Background

Since August 2022, the City has been working with Cambium Inc. in response to occurrences of contamination entering Jackson Creek. Cambium Inc. has been responsible for impartial monitoring of the site, investigation into the source of the contamination, developing and implementing remediation measures, deploying contractors for clean up and containment of the contamination that has entered Jackson Creek, and reporting to the MECP.

Since the initial report, additional works completed have included: removal of contaminated soil upstream of the underflow dam, periodic repairs to the underflow dam, further investigation into contamination sources, addressing infrastructure issues that could result in contamination bypassing the Permeable Reactive Barrier installed along the north side of Townsend Street adjacent to the site, and the removal of the underflow dam in the fall of 2024 that was installed across Jackson Creek to retain surface oils while allowing the river to flow underneath the temporary structure.

Efforts, so far, have been focused on implementing measures to control and prevent releases to the culvert and containment and clean up when they have occurred. Staff are anticipating that work completed so far have stemmed migration of contamination into the culvert and the program can transition from an emergency response to

developing a long-term monitoring and reporting program until such time as the MECP agrees to no longer require the monitoring. The goal in 2025 is to close out the emergency response and transition to a program of routine monitoring, inspections and reporting that meets the current requirements of the MECP.

As an approach to mitigating the impact of any oil or fuel-based products passing through Jackson Creek and entering the Little Lake area, it is proposed that a continuous oil sheen monitoring system be installed at the confluence of Jackson Creek and the Jackson Creek overflow storm sewer. This device would be incorporated into existing continuous monitoring systems for the City and provide for rapid detection and response to minimize future impacts to Little Lake and the highly utilized community shoreline.

Strategic Plan

Strategic Pillar: Community & Well-being

Strategic Initiative: Demonstrate strong leadership in environmental stewardship by proactively addressing issues and challenges of climate change and the environment.

Investigation into this contamination identified a city property as a probable source and as such it is the City's responsibility to effect remediation in consultation with the MECP and in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act.

Budget and Financial Implications

The total estimated costs of additional work are summarized in Table 1 and is an upset limit of \$498,642.00, net of HST rebate, and can be accommodated within the uncommitted balance of 2025 Capital Budget 21-112 for Emergency Environmental Remediation.

Table 1 Financial Summary

Item	Value
Increased Scope for 5 years of Monitoring and Reporting	\$290,000.00
Continuous Sheen Monitoring System Budget	\$200,000.00
Subtotal	\$490,000.00
Net HST (1.76%)	\$8,624.00
Total with Net HST	\$498,624.00

Conclusion

It is recommended that for continuity of responsibility and to meet the regulatory requirements that an increase be approved in the project budget for Cambium Inc. to continue with site monitoring related to the Jackson Creek contamination issues that appeared in August 2022 and that will allow for continued monitoring until Dec 31, 2029, in support of MECP requirements.

Submitted by,

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