



December 22, 2018

Letter to the Editor
Perth Courier

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The vote by Perth Council on December 6th against a motion to support conservation authorities is unusual for a town that is so dependent on the Tay River and its watershed. The motion, submitted by Councillor Judy Brown, was made in response to a proposal from MPP Randy Hillier for a reduction in the mandate of all Ontario's conservation authorities.

From Perth's perspective, the first line of protection for our water supply is provided in large part by Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA), with such invaluable services as Source Water Protection, monitoring of water quality upstream of the town, and programs for the care of septic systems and shorelines.

There will always be instances in which planning decisions are not popular, or even not correct, but this does not make a case for eliminating the essential protection.

The proposal by MPP Hillier, and the Omnibus Bill "*Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act*" tabled on December 6th by the Ontario Government, are part of a policy to pursue commercial development at the expense of environmental protection and preservation. As one example, this would eliminate a major protective section of the "*Clean Water Act*", which was enacted following the Walkerton tragedy.

An obvious question is whether the vote by Perth Council will not only encourage these even wider provincial initiatives, but also create a precedent for other municipalities, upstream from the town, to follow?

Because, we all live downstream.

Sincerely,

David Taylor, Friends of the Tay Watershed Association.

We All Live Downstream...