

## ***Ottawa Riverkeeper comments on Application # D02-02-25-0038 and Application # D07-12-25-0073***

Ottawa Riverkeeper has the following concerns and comments regarding the proposed zoning by-law amendment and site plan applications for 1015 Tweddle Road.

1015 Tweddle Road is located near Petrie Island, which includes a Provincially Significant Wetland and also provides important habitat for many species, including the threatened Blanding's Turtle. Given the ecological value of this area, it is important that any development proceeds in a manner that minimizes impacts to the nearby wetlands, shoreline areas, and wildlife habitat, and that the impacts to the Ottawa River ecosystem are carefully considered.

The proximity of the wetlands raises several concerns. Not only would run off from the proposed site plan run directly to the wetland area, but changes in the slope and construction of retaining walls highlight significant changes to how overland flow will move through this area. Additionally, the site is within an area of the watershed that has experienced significant flooding in recent years, notably during the 2017 and 2019 high-water events. These events highlighted the vulnerability of riverside communities and the importance of incorporating flood risk into land use planning decisions. Allowing for developments that propose further hardening of the shoreline accelerates the impact of flooding in downstream areas. As climate change continues to increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather, new developments in flood-prone areas should be designed with a strong emphasis on long-term resilience and public safety, as well as having a minimal impact on the surrounding environment.

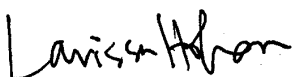
Natural features such as wetlands, vegetated shorelines, and other permeable surfaces play a critical role in managing floodwaters, reducing runoff, and maintaining water quality. Protecting and enhancing these features can help mitigate flood impacts both on-site and downstream. Provincial guidance, including the *Independent Review of the 2019 Flood Events in Ontario* and *Ontario's Flooding Strategy*, emphasizes the value of conserving natural green infrastructure and avoiding the intensification of development in areas at higher flood risk.

Ottawa Riverkeeper encourages the City of Ottawa to consider how this proposal will impact nearby natural features, if it minimizes flood risk to the neighbouring environments, and what steps will be taken to maintain the ecological functions that



support the health of the Ottawa River. Careful site design, strong stormwater management, and the preservation of wetlands and natural areas are critical. Only developments that contribute positively to the community without increasing long-term environmental or flood-related risks should be permitted to proceed.

Sincerely,



Larissa Holman  
Director of Science and Policy  
Ottawa Riverkeeper

Ottawa Riverkeeper works with individuals, community groups, and all levels of government to promote river stewardship and collective action on issues that affect local waterways. Ottawa Riverkeeper fulfills its mission by raising awareness, educating, empowering and inspiring action; disseminating science-based information, such as our inaugural Watershed Report Card, and encouraging responsible use of the Ottawa River for the enjoyment and benefit of all. We support efforts that connect people to freshwater environments, as this is a vital part of fostering river appreciation and stewardship within communities in the watershed.