



DURHAM

FLOOD AND EROSION INFRASTRUCTURE - PHYSICAL

Legacy Dam Decommissioning - Secord Dam and Osler Dam



EXPECTED IMPACT

By removing the dams, TRCA eliminates the possibility of failure, uncontrolled releases, and future emergency interventions. The project restores natural flow patterns, reconnects fragmented aquatic habitat, and enhances flood resilience across the watershed. This investment resolves long standing infrastructure risks while delivering broad ecological benefits.

BUDGET & FUNDING

Estimated Total Cost (\$000's): \$2,400

20% Engineering

80% Construction

Possible Funding Sources:

- Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure Grant
- Disaster Mitigation Action Plan Grant
- Municipal Contributions

OWNERSHIP

- TRCA

OVERVIEW

The Secord and Osler dams are aging legacy structures that no longer meet safety standards and cannot be economically upgraded. Their deteriorated condition creates increasing downstream safety risks. Decommissioning these structures is the responsible and strategic choice to protect communities and restore the natural watercourse.

OBJECTIVES

Deteriorated and beyond feasible repair, Secord and Osler dams pose increasing downstream risk. Removing them will eliminate failure hazards, prevent uncontrolled releases, restore natural channel function, and reconnect fragmented habitats. The objective is to remove unsafe infrastructure, stabilize the watercourse, and enhance long-term watershed resilience.

BENEFITING STAKEHOLDERS

- Region of Durham
- Town of Uxbridge
- Local Communities
- City of Pickering



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KEY PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES TO DATE

Remove Aging Dam Infrastructure to Eliminate Failure Risk



High Priority

Decommissioning the Secord and Osler Dams will remove unsafe, non-compliant structures and prevent the potential for dam failure, road damage, and downstream safety impacts.

Restore Natural River Function & Ecological Health



High Priority

Taking out the dams will reconnect the river, allow natural sediment movement, and improve aquatic and riparian habitat, leading to long-term environmental resilience.

Work to Date:

Monthly inspections of the dam to assess evidence of dam failure. Dam Safety reviews have been completed for each dam.

RISKS IF UNFUNDED

Social: Dam failure at the aging Secord & Osler Dams could endanger downstream residents, and damage to nearby road crossings could disrupt access and emergency response routes.

Financial / Economic: Failure of these deteriorating structures could lead to costly infrastructure repairs and corporate reputational risk, increasing financial pressure and reducing support for future projects.

Deferred Action Risk: Leaving the dams in place increases the likelihood of extensive environmental damage, including the release of sediment trapped behind the dams, which would degrade river health and become far more complex to restore later.



KEY DATES

- **Possible Start:** TBD
- **Duration:** 3 years
Environmental Assessment, design, approvals, and implementation

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