Council Direction:

At the May 8th Council meeting it was recommended that item 5.3 “Correspondence from John Vesprini, respecting Poor Drainage on Lake Avenue Drive” (Appendix A);

“Be received and referred to the General Manager of the Public Works Department for a report back to Public Works Committee”.

Information:

In 2010 the reconstruction of Lake Avenue, from King Street to Queenston Road, under contract PW10-15(HW), was awarded for $2,129,000. The road costs comprised $1,302,000 with the remaining $687,000 dedicated to replacement of watermain assets.

A traditional storm sewer installation was not possible as the entire neighbourhood storm drainage is based on ditches and culverts and no outlet for traditional storm sewer exists in this location. The current conveyance configuration is desirable from a water quality perspective and provides cost effective and efficient storm water handling. By means of minor adjustments to road grades and the strategic placement of catch basin inlet structures, the road drainage was maximized utilizing the available overland flow facilities on adjacent streets.

The roadway is monitored and the storm drainage system is functioning as expected. The temporary ponding of water during a heavy rain fall event on any street is not dependent on the presence of storm sewers, but on the intensity of the rainfall, the grade of the roadway and inlet capacity to the sewer or ditches. Lake Avenue is very flat and although ponding has been observed it is very temporary in nature and not
unique to only this location or roadway. The storm of April 10, 2013 created ponding on the roadway in various locations throughout the City.
Subject: Poor Drainage on Lake Avenue Drive

In 2010 Dufferin Construction tore up and repaved Lake Avenue Drive. I asked a Dufferin superintendent if they are going to install a storm sewer with more catch basins. He said Dufferin mentioned this to the City and was told there was no financing for storm sewer upgrades but the road is to be lowered about four inches to eliminate flooding on resident's properties.

When we have a heavy rain storm there are two rivers running south to north about four feet or more from the curbs on both sides of Lake Avenue Drive. Also, there are major puddles at curb height at the corners of Highway 8, Galbraith, and Avalon. At Avalon, the section of the curb was cut out to allow water to drain into the gutter on Avalon. But in no time, this gutter is saturated and the water puddles onto Lake Avenue Drive.

On April 10, 2013, we had a heavy rain storm. Earlier that day, city workers posted “danger water on road” signs at Highway #8 and Galbraith, warning traffic of the puddles. By midafternoon, when the rain stopped, the signs were removed, even though the puddles were still there. On that day, I witnessed a near head-on collision when an unsuspecting driver noticed the puddle when crossing Highway #8, from Lake Avenue North to Lake Avenue Drive. The driver swerved onto oncoming traffic to avoid the puddle, realized his error and drove back through the puddle. It is possible, puddles these deep, about curb height, may cause a driver to lose control of his/her vehicle. These puddles create a dangerous situation to vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians. As well, these puddles may cause erosion over time.

One would wonder why, when a road is being completely redone, all services are not upgraded and improved on.

When this letter is brought to Council, I would appreciate it if I were informed so I could attend.

Sincerely,

John Vesprini