

HARRINGTON CONSERVATION AREA

The living museum



Information on existing dam construction

To Rick Goldt C.E.T
Supervisor, Water Control Structures
UTRCA

Efforts are being made by the community to source historical documents that relate to the Harrington Conservation Area and the Mill. The reason for this is two-fold. First, to have a true history of the area from the time of the early settlers, to when UTRCA became involved and created the Conservation Area in the first place- including replacing the dam, and, to tie everything in to current times. Knowing the complete history of the pond, mill and conservation area will allow for an excellent educational opportunity as part of the education plan we are working on. Secondly, having all the historical documentation will make establishing a Historical Conservation District in Harrington a simple process should the community decide to go in that direction sometime in the future. Some truly fascinating and rare documents have been gathered, through much leg-work by members of the community, and much of what we had hoped to find has been acquired already.

That said, I am currently looking at the original blueprints from Kilborn Engineering dated July 3, 1952, including the revision of July 16, 1952 titled –HARRINGTON DAM GENERAL LAYOUT. Months ago when starting to familiarize myself with the Harrington Dam situation, I read a document that stated that aspects of the original construction of the dam were unknown (I believe that was the 2002 study). Local residents have made several references to the fact that the dam area was piled with steel sheet-piling but this seemed to be an unproven fact. Based on these blueprints, it seems the residents were correct. The drawings show 9' sheet piling under the footings of the spillway that extend

a few inches up into the poured concrete of the footing, and 16' foot steel sheet piling through the body of the spillway. The steel is rated at 20lb/sqft. The total length of the piling is 35 feet. I found this to be quite interesting and thought you might too. UTRCA may already be aware of this but as it seemed to be an ambiguous point in the past, it would be remiss of me to not mention it.

Thanks for your time,

Gavin Houston