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**STAFF REPORT: RECREATION DEPARTMENT**



**REPORT TO:** Infrastructure and Recreation Committee  
**MEETING DATE:** October 23, 2012  
**REPORT NO.:** DOR 12 45  
**SUBJECT:** Former Town Hall Site Tree Removal  
**PREPARED BY:** Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation

**A. Recommendations**

THAT Council receive Staff Report DOR 12 45 "Former Town Hall Site Tree Removal" and authorize removal of the subject willow tree as described in this report.

**B. Background**

During the summer of 2012, the former town hall site has been developed into a useable piece of Parkland. Working closely with the demolition contractor, the lands were contoured in a way during the filling of the old foundation allowed for the application of Hydro seed. During the hot dry summer season the growth was slow however the property has relatively good coverage of grass and this has allowed the property to be useable.

During staff review of the property and moving forward with a master plan of the site, staff is recommending the removal of the large willow tree on the South Side of the Trestle Bridge. This project is significant due to the trees overall size as well as the presence of Hydro lines running through the limbs of the tree.

Staff believes that the tree hides the Trestle bridges visual and heritage significance and as well, the fracture and falling of mature Willow branches is of significant concern in terms of both potential liability and river blockage.

The replanting of more suitable trees in strategic locations would ensure that tree canopy is maintained.

Staff has consulted with the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority who have confirmed that removal of the Willow Tree is permitted, however their recommendation is to allow the stump and roots remain so not to disturb soil materials.

**C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan**

Supporting the development of social and recreational programs to meet the broad range of needs in the community.

**D. Environmental Impacts**

Maintaining an important Active Transportation link

**E. Financial Impact**

Staff has confirmed that funding is available within the Town Hall Demolition Budget

**Removal of Willow Tree**

Removal of the willow tree would be contracted out with estimated costs of \$6,500

**F. In Consultation With**

Terry Green, Manager of Parks & Trails  
David Finbow, Director of Planning and Building  
Troy Speck, CAO  
Andrew Sorenson, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority

**G. Attached**

None at this time

Respectfully submitted,

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Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation

For more information, please contact:

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