

STAFF REPORT: RECREATION DEPARTMENT

REPORT TO: Infrastructure & Recreation
MEETING DATE: November 22, 2011
REPORT NO.: DOR .11.71
SUBJECT: Lions Club Spawning Bed Request
 Follow up
PREPARED BY: Shawn Everitt
 Director of Recreation

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report DOR.11.71 “Lions Club Spawning Bed Request Follow up” and approve the request from the Thornbury/Beaver Valley Lions Club to have Town Staff assist in the permitting application processes.

B. Background

On October 24, 2011 Council received correspondence from the Thornbury/Beaver Valley Lions Club identifying their desire to work in cooperation with the Town’s Recreation and Public Works Departments. The project that was identified was to establish spawning beds for native and naturalized species on a cold water spring fed stream on Grey Sauble Conservation Lands West and South of Clendenans Dam.

The request identified the wish to have Town staff contact and engage the proper agencies and ministries, and that the Thornbury/Beaver Valley Lions Club would assist and be the lead in fundraising and partnering with other interested parties in the project.

The development of a more detailed description of the proposed project was completed through consultation with Tom Kennedy whom submitted the letter to Council on behalf of the Thornbury/Beaver Valley Lions Club, along with Ralph Fisher from the Thornbury Fish ladder and Dam. Mr Fisher is a contractor with the Ministry of Natural Resources

The overall scope of the project would encompass the Beaver River from the South West edge of Clendenans Dam pond and carry through to Lions Park. The major component of the Lions Request is for the construction of spawning beds that would be located along the existing stream as outlined in attachment 1. The Spawning beds create optimum spawning conditions that support a sustainable fish stock and help enhance the watershed. The introduction of additional cold water helps the overall health of the watershed. The scope of the project includes downstream of Clendenans Dam into the Firemans Park and Lions Park area.

This project could fit well within the Haines Dam project being led by Grey Sauble Conservation. The potential removal of Haines Dam would make the existing fish ladder that allows fish to bypass the Haines Dam aprons redundant. The potential of establishing a First Class interpretive area highlighting the natural significance of the Watershed and Clarksburg Area specific significance could be very appealing to potential partners and adjacent land owners.

This nature of this project is supported by the Town's Sustainable Path Plan through the Environmental Stewardship and Natural Heritage Section particularly points on Pages 23, 26 and 27 as follows;

- Develop links between natural areas and wildlife corridors;
- Establish citizen's group to raise funds to protect and expand our natural heritage;
- Encourage partnerships among environmental groups and agencies;
- Identify specific parcels of land to enhance natural and wildlife linkages and purchase when appropriate;
- Establish wildlife corridors to improve habitat connectivity;
- Focus on the terrestrial environment as well as aquatic and wetland systems;
- Focus on existing habitat;
- Create new habitat and partner with environmental and agricultural partners to restore terrestrial and wetland systems;
- Develop a collaborative shoreline protection policy (with landowners and senior levels of government);
- Establish shoreline buffer requirements;
- Identify land, river and shoreline areas that could benefit from ecosystem restoration;
- Work with land trust groups on acquiring land for restoration projects;
- Work with senior levels of government, First Nations Peoples and other partners to achieve sustainable fishing and a sustainable fishery.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

- Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features, and cultural heritage of the community.
- Supporting the development of social and recreational programs to meet the broad range of needs in the community.

D. Environmental Impacts

This project will provide optimum spawning conditions to support a sustainable fish stock and watershed.

E. Financial Impact

The Town's role in this project will be specific to providing support with appropriate Ministries and Agencies as well as other Partners. Funding for this project will be supplied by way of Partnership fundraising as well as potential in-kind donations.

F. In Consultation With

Environmental Initiative Coordinator Adam McMullen, staff support with the Beaver River Working Group.

G. Attached

- 1) Location and map of specific area

Respectfully submitted,

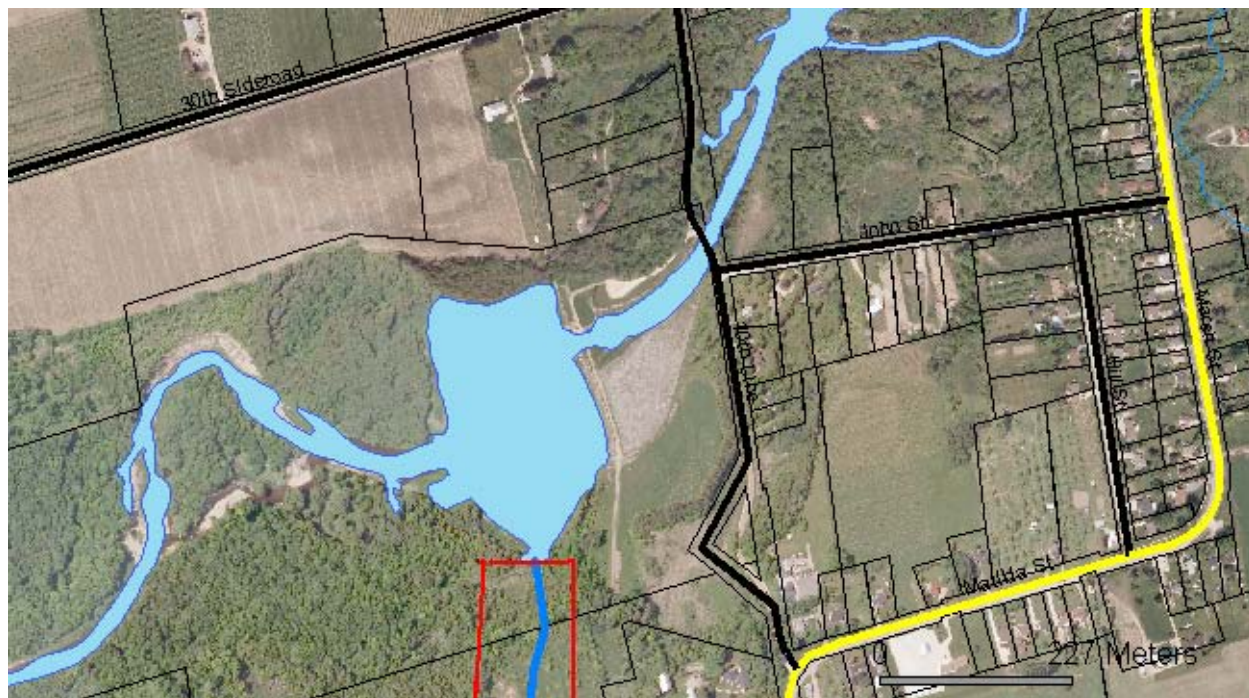
Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation

For more information, please contact:

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Attachment 1



Area of Clendenans Dam Pond

Dark Blue is existing stream that would have spawning beds located in